



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

10th April 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 17th April

9.30 am	Mornington	Mornington LMT
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
11.00 am	Glenaven	Mornington LMT
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillips
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

PASTORAL CARE: All Leaders of the Mornington Pastoral Care Group are kindly invited to an afternoon-tea at Andrea and Elden Mosleys home, 4 Fenton Crescent on Sunday 10th April at 2pm. We will review our groups and make changes as required and will talk about our ongoing role within the church. Please come and bring your ideas on both these subjects. If you are not able to attend please let Beryl or Andrea know.

NZ LAND WARS PETITION - Parish Submission

The proposed submission on this petition is set out below.

This is a submission of members of the Dunedin Methodist Parish (the Parish).

Members of the Parish support the Petition of Waimarama Anderson and Leah Bell, calling for greater awareness of the Land Wars, for local stories of those times to become part of the New Zealand Curriculum, and for there to be a statutory Day of Recognition.

This is a well justified cause. In the name of justice and reconciliation, and out of respect for those whose lives were lost, it has our support. The New Zealand Wars were, and are, a formative and essential part of our country's history. An estimated 3,000 Maori and Pakeha - warriors, soldiers and civilians - lost their lives. Vast tracts of land were confiscated. Both the heartbreak and injustice still influence the way we think and speak of our sense of nationhood.

Just a handful of memorials were erected during those wars, or soon afterwards. Only in 1987 was the memorial stone 'Rongo' placed in Dunedin by Taranaki Maori, commemorating those men who lost their lives during their term of imprisonment in Otago.

It was as if we did not want to be reminded.

We are reminded of the deaths of those who served in South Africa, in two World Wars and in the many localised conflicts overseas, from Korea onwards. Our Parish has recently researched the stories of those locals who lost their lives during World War 1. Yet our knowledge of our own New Zealand history is still variable.

Surely, now is the time to remedy our lack of respect for our own people, from our own nation.

May truth and mercy meet, justice and peace kiss.

Let the stories of the people and wars of our nation be shared, with dignity and respect.

A copy of this submission, and space for your signature, will be made available at the front entrance, for the next two Sundays [10 and 17

April]. Submissions must be received by the Maori Affairs Select Committee by Thursday 21 April.

For more information, please contact Dale Meredith, ph 467 2070, email peterdale@slingshot.co.nz

DUNEDIN CHURCHES WELCOME REFUGEES: INFORMATION EVENING - ALL WELCOME

Time: Wednesday April 13th 2016 7pm-8.30pm

Place: Mornington Methodist Church corner of Galloway and Whitby Streets, Mornington, Dunedin.



Our speakers will be Mouhannad Taha , from Syria and Leisa de Klerk (Dunedin Red Cross). Mouhannad, a lawyer, came to Dunedin from Syria with his family in 2012. He recently became a Barrister and Solicitor of the NZ High Court. Mouhannad will share many insights with us, including a Muslim perspective on refugee resettlement, and a reflection on how adaptable Syrian people are. Leisa leads the Dunedin Red Cross Volunteer team which will be providing front line support for the former refugee families when they arrive in Dunedin later in April. Leisa will share about her work, and about ways in which Church members and others can assist.

Everyone is welcome to come along and hear about what is happening with Syrian refugee resettlement in Dunedin this year, and to find out ways of offering support to former refugees.

Further information:

Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz Ph 027 212 1048

<https://www.facebook.com/events/529498350553199/>

TWO FAMILIES had multiple celebrations at our churches last week. **COLIN & JEANETTE GIBSON** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their extended family, and at the same time Colin's birthday. **SIOSIFA & NAOMI POLE**



included their extended family and other members of the Dunedin Tongan community to celebrate **SEKONIA's** twenty-first birthday and **SOLOMON's** departure for a rugby future in Japan. Such celebrations are occasions for festivity, memories, tears and laughter, and are ongoing reminders that the bonds of family are a precious glue that holds precious relationships together, often from a great distance.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

- ☺ Audrey Stewart who turns 2 on 10th April!
- ☺ Mamaiz Horsfall who turns 2 on 13th April!

OPEN EDUCATION: LIVING RICHER SPIRITUAL LIVES

On Wednesday 20 April Open Education presents a fascinating talk by Rev John Franklin, former chaplain to the Bishop of Dunedin, and one of the founders of the Spiritual Growth Ministries organisation. This national, ecumenical organisation organises retreats and venues for meditation and contemplation. It publishes Refresh, a richly illustrated and poetic journal. Essentially it is a network of people from many Christian traditions (yes, including Methodists) who find depth and meaning in the whole Christian heritage of contemplative spirituality. It aims to help people develop their own spiritual resources for life and work. Join us at Mornington Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 April or come to the pre-talk meal catered by Judy Russell at 6pm (ring 455 3727 for your booking). A koha of \$5 for the talk and \$15 for the meal. All profits will go to help restore the Fijian communities battered by hurricanes and torrential rain.

ANNUAL LEAVE - I am taking one week of Annual Leave and it will start on 12th - 18th of April. While I am away Rod Mitchell will be acting as the Superintendent of the parish.

MOSGIEL MID-WEEK SERVICE - will be on the 20th of April, 2pm, at Mosgiel church hall.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Corrections: Brief Drink Driving programme

Joy had found this group the most challenging of all the groups so far as some members of the group did display quite entrenched drink driving behaviours that she had encountered so far. Some stated they had no intention of changing their behaviours and they challenged all the facts/ statistics presented e.g. one participant



said he had trained his liver to process alcohol faster than 1 drink per hour, so there was no way he would still be legally drunk the next morning, even though he had been binge drinking. There were however several participants who took full part in the discussions and offered good constructive comments. One complimented Joy on her ability to work through the "disrespect shown to them by some people". Several came up and thanked Joy at the end of the session, and there was really good discussion round the impact of accidents on the wider community, especially police, firemen and ambulance staff. All participants took part in the Booze goggle activities, but the more entrenched ones were less keen to engage in the board and card games. Kerri went along with Joy to be involved and to learn how the programme went, so that she will also be trained to deliver this programme.



LIVING LIFE FROM INSIDE OUT

Thomas Keating, theologian, writer, realized that in order to contribute positively to the way of the world we each need to be on a personal spiritual journey. He wrote, "We live lives in relation to the false self, the self that is created and conferred on us by culture." Theologian Frederick Buechner put it another way, "We live our lives from outside in, rather than from inside out."

There is something in that idea, but realistically aren't our lives shaped, primarily by outside influences? 'We are creatures of our culture,' is often said. Where did that quote originate?

Culture changes over time and we change along with it, adding our piece in our own small way but not often giving much thought to the direction we are heading. If there is something in our culture we don't like we can attempt to change it, but before we can do that we need a radical change within ourselves, a spiritual change, perhaps.

Another way of putting it is, clean out the garbage that culture has pumped into us in order to give to a better culture.

Easter has come and gone, how did we celebrate our most important Christian Festival? Pressures from our surrounding culture would have perhaps had quite a large influence on us as to how we spent our time over this extended weekend. The entertainment and the commercial life may/will have been to the fore inviting a shopping spree, a few days at the crib, family or friends elsewhere may have beckoned, or was there a must see sporting event?

Our culture influences the way we fill in time, how we fill that time is our choice. Now there is ever more pressure coming from the commercial world to extend the shopping hours over Easter! Who really wants that? (No chocolate fish for the best answer) So are we creatures of our culture?

The name of our Christian festival, 'Easter,' came from a bygone culture when the early Christians decided to take over the pagan festival of 'Eoster', the celebration of coming of Spring. (Northern Hemisphere remember)

Now, as modern day Christians, how do we see ourselves as followers of Christ, the man who had more influence on culture, on the way we live, than any other person, before and since? As Christians, Jesus Christ is central to our understanding of God and hence ourselves and the world we live in.

John, in his Gospel depicts Jesus with sayings such as "the Father and I are One" (10:3) and "whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (14:9) What do these words of Jesus say to us today when it comes to living our lives from inside out, from the heart, from your inner soul?

Before his death (pre-Easter) Christ challenged much of his culture - the ruling Romans, the governing authorities, the religious (Temple) authorities, and Jews and Greeks and his followers. Post-Easter Jesus challenged/challenges his disciples and those who follow - challenged to a change of heart – to living lives from the inside out.

The biggest challenge, perhaps, to Christians today is to be exemplars of Christian values, to live out that which we preach – the teachings of Jesus Christ.

All communities are the product of individuals, the worshipping Christian community is no exception. There are other ‘moral’ communities out there of which we don’t/cannot judge, and as in all communities, including the Christian Church, there is diversity, we have to live with that.

We also have to strive to be ‘better’ because through the many efforts to do ‘better’, our culture, our world becomes a ‘better’ place to live in.

There’s a multitude of people out there – moral communities, we might call them - striving to make the world a better place for its inhabitants, for all creatures – people living lives from the inside out, our own Methodist Mission included.

Two words stood out for me in my reading recently, integrity and ethics, both to do with moral principles, words that feature much in business and groups in the public arena. For example the medical practices have their ‘code of ethics’, as do the police, the armed forces, church employees, etc. - moral communities we might call them, contributing to a better quality of life.

If we, the Christian Church think of ourselves as a moral community we have to know and see the social action, the benefits, that we are contributing to the wider community.

The church’s job is saving souls, we are often told. By whom?

We can do more than that. What more can the church give?

Let’s go back and connect to earlier words in this article and think more of living our lives from the inside out.”

Gordon Abernethy