



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
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<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
<b>Mornington:</b>		

## PARISH BULLETIN

12<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> June

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

### PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH BULLETINS 12 JUNE 2016

Methodist hosted **Climate Justice workshop** for churches 20<sup>th</sup> August, Auckland. Science, theology, policy and politics will guide options for practical action in this ecumenical event. A financial contribution for travel is available. Contact [betsan@publicquestions.org.nz](mailto:betsan@publicquestions.org.nz)

Measures for NZ children in poverty only minimally mitigate the long term adversity of poverty for children. See Public Issues Facebook page for a video of the last speech of Children's Commissioner Dr Russell Wills.

See Public Issues website for a brief synthesis of the Budget – taking account of the uneasy mix of children, housing, climate, debt repayment and economic growth

**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** The June meeting will take place on the 22nd June in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. This will be the Annual General Meeting where the Rev Siosifa Pole will chair, followed by Reflections. We will then have the "monthly" meeting followed by the Rev Pole telling us about his "Study & conference in Sydney & Samoa. Please remember the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" All welcomed.

**ROD MITCHELL'S** wide-ranging visual presentation on human need pulled at the heart strings, with special reference to the huge tide of migrants fleeing countries where mans' inhumanity to man seems boundless - Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and a number of North African countries where



lawlessness and atrocity are everyday occurrences. How are the receiving countries to greet these thousands of desperate people? Rod drew his inspiration from Pope Francis' declaration of 2016 as a **Year of Mercy**.

From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis' homilies and speeches have emphasized "mercy" as a common theme. "In the year of mercy, we are all called to look into our hearts and recognize our sinfulness and our need for God's mercy. But this is not a year of sad reflection on our sinfulness, rather it is a year of rejoicing that God's mercy is gracious and overwhelming. Mercy is not earned. It is given."

Increasingly, Pope Francis is being recognised as shining a light for all Christians to follow, and Rod's presentation made good connections between the gospel and a world



crying out for practical love and mercy. Thanks Rod

## **OPEN EDUCATION: GOD IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Richard Randerson is a retired New Zealand Anglican bishop whose fifty years in ministry have focused on the Church's engagement with issues of poverty and justice, public ethics, theology and inter-faith relations. On Wednesday 15 June, at 7.30pm in Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, he speaks and leads a discussion on 'God in the 21st Century'. He argues that the Church can no longer simply reaffirm its traditional images and doctrines of God, but have Dawkins and Geering both got it wrong? Can we continue to believe in God as that which we deeply experience at the heart of life, giving us a sense of connection to all life, people and creation, experienced in the nature of love, changing our lives and calling us to be agents of change for the wellbeing of others and the earth that sustains us? His notable 2015 book, *Slipping the Moorings*, which addresses many of these issues, will be available on the night for \$25 (\$20 unwaged).

Sign in for the usual pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell or ring 455 3727 to book your place. But don't miss an outstanding modern Christian speaker of national standing, and bring others to hear him.



### **THE GREATEST NEED OF THE CHURCH:**

The Church is passing through a period of chaos and crisis, and not just our own Methodist community. This is not necessarily a bad thing. A crisis is a challenge to grow. Chaos precedes creation – provided, and this is the big proviso, the Spirit of God is hovering over it.

The greatest need of the church today is not new legislation, new theologies, new structures, new liturgies – all these without the Holy Spirit are like a dead body without a soul. We desperately need someone to take away our hearts of stone and give us a heart of flesh; we need a fresh infusion of enthusiasm and inspiration and courage and spiritual strength. We need to persevere in our task without discouragement or cynicism, with new faith in the future and in the people we work for. In other words we need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

To put it more concretely, we need people who are charged with the Holy Spirit. Remember the Spirit works through people. Transformation comes through people. "There was a man sent from God whose name was John,"

we read at the dawn of Christ's coming. A person, not a plan, not a blueprint, not a message. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." – God saved us, not through a "plan of salvation" but through a human being, Jesus Christ, a person mighty in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not come down upon buildings but upon people, like you and me; it is people who get anointed, not blueprints. God's spirit circulates in the hearts and spirits of human beings, not in the latest machinery.

So to say that the Church's most desperate need is for a fresh infusion of the Holy Spirit is to say that the Church needs a whole army of spirit-filled people. That is why next year's worship focus will centre on how we can become spirit-filled people.

The problem we face is the problem the apostles faced. They like us, were in need of the Holy Spirit for their ministry. Jesus gave them instructions on how to receive the Holy Spirit. He said, "You must, **wait** for the promise made by my Father, about which you have heard me speak: John, as you know, baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit, and within the next few days... You will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and all over Judaea and Samaria, and away to the ends of the earth."

Jesus said 'Wait'. We can't produce the Spirit. We can only **wait** for the Spirit to come. And this is something our poor human nature finds very hard to do in our modern world. We cannot easily wait. We prefer to drown ourselves in activities, practical tasks.

Note Jesus said, "You will receive power." Receive is a wonderful word. Jesus does not expect us to produce power, because this kind of power cannot be produced no matter how hard we try. This reminds me of a person who said, "I have attended dozens of seminars at which I have picked up at least a hundred beautiful ideas. What I need now is not more beautiful ideas. I need the power to put at least one of these ideas into action!" We all have received many ideas but we have trouble waiting for the right power to act. Let's help each other in this important task.

Rod Mitchell. (With Thanks to Anthony De Mello for inspiration for this piece.)