



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

24th July 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31st July

10.00 am	Mornington	Combined at Mosgiel
10.00 am	Mosgiel	R Mitchell, S Pole, C Gibson
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Mosgiel
10.00 am	Wesley	Combined at Mosgiel
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. The July Meeting will take place on the 27th at 2 p.m. in the Church Lounge. We will continue thinking & working towards our NZ Special Project. Margaret Connor will help us make some of the hearts - ready for the Hopewalk. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.



REMINDER: COMBINED CHURCHES SERVICE - St Francis Xavier - Sunday 31 July at 4.30. Light tea to follow. Will look forward to seeing you all there.

COUNTRY GOSPEL SERVICE – Sunday 7th August @ 7 pm - St Luke's Anglican Church, 67 Gordon Road, Mosgiel. Featuring Taieri Gospel Band and guest artists Graeme & Melissa Partridge.

SYMPATHY - On behalf of the Wesley congregation and the wider Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to Ruth, Fraser, and David for the death of Rev Gordon Watson on Saturday 16th July 2016, a husband and father to your family. It is our prayer that God's Spirit will comfort you and grant peace upon you during this period of grieving.



COMBINED PARISH SERVICE - Just a reminder that the whole Parish will have a combined service at the Mosgiel Methodist Church, 10am on Sunday 31st of July. Please bring a plate for a shared morning tea after the service in the hall.

PRAYER REQUEST - Please continue to pray for the world peace and those who are affected by war and violence. Remember those who are mourning for the death of loved ones. Please also remember those who are seriously sick in our parish and those who give them support.



EXPLORERS GROUP - Meeting this Sunday, 24 July at 4.30 pm in the Mornington Lounge, to further consider 'God in the 21st century', following Bishop Richard Randerson's seminar at the Open Education session last month. You're welcome.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Corrections Literacy Numeracy: Most of the learners who come to the Literacy and Numeracy classes are pleased to be able to come and participate, however one particular learner who was suggested to join the group was not happy to have to do the course. But he came and slowly started to participate. Now he participates fully and last week brought a short biographical story he had written to class which he read out to the class, who gave him a round of applause at the end. He is now working on another story which will hopefully become one of many that he can put together in a collection.



SUNDAY SCHOOL at Mornington is a makeshift arrangement depending on what numbers of children are there on the day - 4, 2, or 0. And what a tribute to a small team of teachers that such a makeshift arrangement so often becomes such a PLUS for the available children, and so often for the congregation as well. Here's a picture from one of those days when teacher Robyn Abernethy demonstrated a wonderful synergy with (from left) Naomi, Kakala, Juliet and Annabelle as they discuss the holy spirit hangings they have made with such love and care.





THE INTERFAITH MOVEMENT – GROWING IN DUNEDIN

Bronwen Strang of Opoho Presbyterian Church recently wrote on this subject in an editorial for her church newsletter, the *Opoho Signal*. With her permission, I am pleased to be able to feature a slightly abridged version for today's "Connections" article. David Kitchingman. Our guest contributor began by saying:

I am interested in the Interfaith movement and some have asked me to explain more of this. As a teenager I believed I would eventually head off overseas and work to convert the world. Training for this, after teaching Science and Biology, came in the form of study at New Zealand Bible College and then Knox College. Way before that however, I saw God at work in the medical interventions of my agnostic father, with this very much affirmed by my deeply spiritual Christian mother. When my parents had a sabbatical trip visiting University Student Health Services around the world, my father was asked what or who had most impressed him during the trip. He had no hesitation in naming the doctor from a university in Baghdad – a Muslim doctor whose compassion and faith he experienced as being like a torch. It warms me to remember this.

An excellent summary of interfaith endeavours came from Pope Francis as he put it last year when he talked of the Catholic Jubilee of Mercy fostering "an encounter with Judaism and Islam and other noble religious traditions. May it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it

eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.”

These themes come through at a local level in the objectives of the **Dunedin Interfaith Council:**

- To enjoy friendly respectful relationships with members of different religions and faiths;
- To provide a forum for its members to consult and discuss interfaith matters;
- To promote harmony and cooperation and be an example to the wider community;
- To encourage the elimination of religious prejudice, and
- To promote the universal themes, values, ethics and norms common to all faiths.

Anyone interested in supporting and promoting multi-faith harmony is welcome to be a member or just come to the meetings. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from 2.30 – 4 pm in the meeting area of one of the different faith communities involved. Meetings this year began at the Mornington Methodist Church, then the Hare Krishna Temple, and a social time in April at the Buddhist Stupa on the Peninsula. In May we met at Knox Church, in June at the Bahá'í Centre, and in July at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. August will be at the Brahma Kumari Centre and September at the Al-Huda Mosque.

The meetings begin by sharing brief readings or comments about a topic such as faith, truth, love, prayer, awareness, healing etc. The body of the meeting may be taken up with organising activities such as the gathering during the Week of Prayer for World Peace (last year at the Quaker Meeting House), the celebration during World Interfaith Harmony Week (at the Mormon Church), and the Interfaith Service Project (this year involving weeding and planting an olive tree at the Al-Huda Mosque). We then share information about up-coming events such as the Islam Awareness Week, open days at the Dhargyey Buddhist Centre, Hare Krishna evenings, International Peace Day, Hiroshima Day, Race Relations Day, Love the Earth climate change vigil,

a workshop on Secular Ethics, the Mormon “Helping Hands Day”, and many wonderful talks taking place in the town.

The Council also acts in an advisory/consultative way to the community. At a monthly DCC meeting a member of one of the faith traditions in the Dunedin community offers a prayer at the beginning of the meeting. National Interfaith Forums are held in New Zealand every two years, including a first time in Dunedin in 2014.

A song written by Professor Colin Gibson for that Forum has very appropriate words, beginning with:

Hold hands, people of faith, sister and brother, hands of the world reaching out, one to the other. All of us seeking, in our own way, the One to whom we pray.

Lotus, Light and Wind and Flame, Spoken Word, unspoken Name, Life and Way, O sacred Sound, Purest Love, our being's Ground, Alpha, Omega, our end, ever present, loving friend!

At the Forum I was particularly captivated by the smiles and openness from a group of young people (Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Bahá'í) speaking about “How faith contributes to personal transformation and the betterment of the world”. In terms of young people and their commitment, two delightful young Sikh women came to our May meeting at Knox Church to talk of their Sikh faith. It was a privilege to meet them.

Another privilege for me was to see on Facebook (!) an invitation to my son, Jamie, who has recently been ordained to be a full Theravadan Buddhist monk in a centre south of Perth. In April of this year I noticed a message to him from a Franciscan brother, Francis Mary, about the April interfaith meeting in Perth “I hope you can come, you are such a gift to this multifaith group. Blessings.” What a joy to a mother's heart to read this.

“Dialogue” for me might be better expressed as “mucking about together”, getting to know people and appreciating our differences. I would like to finish with a recent comment in *Tui Motu*, the Independent Catholic Magazine. Simon Rae, who spent many years in Indonesia in Presbyterian ministry, wrote about accepting interfaith

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and cross-cultural differences: “Friendships are formed among us, affection grows and we learn that encountering difference can be an opportunity for new understanding”.

Websites for further information: www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1566890406855982/>
www.interfaith.org.nz

Bronwen Strang