



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

6th November 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 13th November

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

PARISH SERVICES ON THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER - Because of the Wesley Church Service of celebration at 1pm on this Sunday, the Parish will have only two services in morning. Only the Mosgiel and the Mornington Churches will have their service at 9.30am. That will allow other churches to get ready for our Parish service at 1pm.

EXPLORERS GROUP - Meeting this Sunday (6th) at 4.30 pm in the Mornington Church (not the Lounge). Ken Russell will report on aspects of the recent Sea of Faith Conference and lead discussion on his Connections article on 30 October.

GARAGE SALE - There will be a Garage Sale at Wesley Church on Saturday 19th of November, 10am – 2pm. Please come and buy whatever you can buy. There will be a sausage sizzle for those who forgot to have breakfast. For more details please contact Siosifa (4552923) or Greg (4876226)

ADVENT STUDY SERIES - It will start on Wednesday 30th of November, 7pm. It will be at Mosgiel Church. This study will be based on *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament Biblical Scholar. “Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was The Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, Water Brueggemann tackles the questions: What were these expectations? And Did Jesus fulfil them?” All are welcome.



 **EAST TAIERI CHURCH**
www.etchurch.co.nz

 **MOSGIEL
MEMORIAL
RSA**

Christmas Lunch

At the Mosgiel RSA

Doors open at 11.45am and food will be served at 12 o'clock

Christmas carols will be sung and there will be surprises for all!

Food and drinks will be free.....just bring yourselves along and enjoy the lunch!

(Please note no alcohol will be served)

CLOSING OF WESLEY CHURCH - With the sale of Wesley Church pending, the church's chattels are being offered to the other Dunedin Methodist churches. If there are any items you would like, please write to Ian Bartlett (28a Belgrave Crescent, Roslyn, Dunedin) who will facilitate the consideration of all requests.

PARISH FUTURE INITIATIVES

Over a series of afternoon sessions, a dedicated parish group have met to develop a future vision for our Parish. One outcome was the following mission statement and aims.

The Dunedin Methodist Parish seeks

- to nurture the Spirit of God in all,
- to stimulate and challenge the mind,
- to practise love and justice and care for people and all creation.

Aims

1. To thrive on the nourishment of the Spirit.
2. To promote the experience and understanding of God as reflected in Jesus
3. To foster openness, diversity and inclusiveness
4. To develop a model of church that enables it to carry out its mission within its contemporary setting.

The next stage is to engage with congregations to prioritise the working out of these aims in practice. We have quite a list, so you will be asked to discuss them in small groups (as part of the morning worship service), and choose what you and your congregation discern is right for the future of the Methodist presence in your area. We want this to be workable, with commitment from people, and a timeframe for action.

We also note that we will be writing a Parish Profile for stationing next year, and this will greatly help that process.

Mornington Nov 13

Glenaven Nov 20

Mosgiel Nov 27

A LITTLE BIT OF WESLEY - The non-Tongans among us didn't realise it at the time but when the Tongan Choir sang their item at last Sunday's Parish service they were teaching us a truth dear to the heart of our founder, John Wesley. Ke Mou Ma'oni'oni is a short Tongan hymn teaching the (often controversial) Wesleyan doctrine of Christian Perfection, a rough translation being

God is perfect, so we ourselves may be perfect

God is holy, so we should be holy

Our thanks to the choir, who made a big effort to be there and a very special contribution to the service.



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Science Kids: Bathgate Park and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Otepoti have successfully completed Science Kids for Term 3. The resiliency results for each school are interesting. The students are asked at the start of the programme, halfway through the programme, and at the end of the programme 'How you feel about your learning in Science'. All the students at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Otepoti had an increase from start to finish on their score – an average shift of 11.5 (on a scale of 40). At Bathgate Park, 63% of the students had a positive shift from start to finish on their score. The feedback from parents at both schools was very positive. For example; 'They were so excited to talk about their experiments around the kai table'. 'Really awesome, relating experiments to things that happen outside in nature'.

Early Years Hub: We are thrilled to welcome the International playgroup to the Hub this month. They are supported by the Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council and the Ministry of Education. The Catholic Social Services Birth Support Group came for a tour and a look at the 'Free to good home' tables and chose a Hub Welcome Pack and quilt to take home. The cooking group hosted 6 Dietetic students from the Otago University and got them all making healthy and nutritious lunchbox fillers. The B4 School checks will be trialled next month on an evening and Saturday morning. Many thanks to the St Kilda Rotary who came and covered up the gap under the fence in the playground and installed a plaque highlighting their on-going commitment to our playground.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.





WHAT IS TRUTH ?

What is truth ?

The world asks in apathetic disillusionment,
none any closer to life's intent or meaning.

Learning truth comes from experience,
everyone's experience differs,
so too does the truth.

Humans, basically intolerant and untrusting
reject others ideas and their own truth simultaneously,
yet still they amble along life's hike in hope of something better,
or become fatty content with materialistic gain
blindly encouraged by society.

Duncan Patrick....(1989)

Looking through some journals the other day, I came across these words penned by our son. They were among a collection of his musings written when he was in a rather challenging (for both him and us!!) period of his life...namely the angst-ridden teenage years. I had forgotten he had written these verses, and as I read them, was intrigued by his perception and cynicism of life. When asking his permission to use this verse, he was quite bemused by my interest, thinking they were of no particular interest to anyone.

In fact, all the poems are insightful and thought-provoking.

The phrase that peaked my interest was 'everyone's experience differs, so too does the truth.' This, because of a conversation I had with a member of our extended family who was reeling from a bombshell dropped by one of their adult kids saying how unloved he had felt since age three. Now, this particular 'unloved' kid happened to be raised by

parents who deeply loved all their children, providing them with a super home and upbringing. However, for this child, HIS perceived experience therefore 'HIS truth', namely the injustices inflicted on him over the years, bore little resemblance to the facts. Indeed the facts had become in his mind, irrelevant. A devastating thing for parents and offspring to work through.

It's so difficult for anyone, especially parents, to allow the aggrieved person their perceived truth when the facts often speak a very different truth.

Over the years in my work, I've been intrigued when listening to siblings raised by the same parents, in same environment, tell their stories. One could be forgiven for thinking each sibling was raised in a totally different environment with totally different parents in totally different families.

Just as everyone's experience differs, so does ones perception of truth and all have to be taken seriously though 'lightly held'.

Hopefully, with maturity comes insight, and the 'unloved' one can move from a place of grievance to a place of understanding and acceptance, learning that feelings are not always a reliable conveyor of truth.

On a more global level, perception rather than truth, has the potential to influence people's political judgement. I was listening to a debate on the US elections and it seems both nominees are pawns of perception rather than fact. The perception that Hilary Clinton is untrustworthy has dogged her throughout the election campaign. Her technological judgement might be flawed, but in fact, she has been a trustworthy Secretary of State, and trustworthy in her other roles as well. Donald Trump is perceived by his supporters as someone who will champion the interests of the lower paid and be a voice against corporate interests, hence they perceive him to be trustworthy. The fact is, he has demonstrated beyond doubt his untrustworthiness in business, relationships, and tax dodges to name a few.

Hopefully common sense will prevail and the transfer of power goes

smoothly.

Truth is elusive sometimes, and what we consider to be true one day, may not be true another day. Science, physics, astrophysics, genetics etc are constantly expanding or changing the truth about our world.

Historical truths have to be put right, because scholarship reveals irrefutable facts long buried in the mists of time.

Fresh expressions of how we understand God at work in the world (or not) can take us new places, perhaps where angels (like Greta Vosper) fearlessly tread.

However, one truth is immutable... the truth of goodness / godness.

It's no accident that the motto of our church is ' Finding good in everyone...finding God in everyone'.

Goodness is of God...the ground of all our being...the creative energy that proclaimed the goodness of all created things (Genesis 1: 31).

An unchangeable and timeless truth.

The author of Galatians in chapter 5: verse 22, describes goodness as one of the 'fruits of the spirit'.

Often as we listen to the ghastly events happening around the world and closer to home,

Goodness seems to have been bombed, starved, and driven out of existence. Our perception could be that the world is 'going to hell in a hand basket'.

However, I believe the creator of goodness will indeed have the last word...I have no idea how,

but, the created and creating truth of God will be;

'held and known in its goodness forever'.

Trish Patrick