



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

20th November 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th November

9.30 am	Mornington	Combined at St Mary's
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	Cancelled due to Wesley Service
1.00 pm	Wesley	Celebration Service
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

WESLEY CHURCH CELEBRATION SERVICE - This service is on Sunday 27th, 1pm, at Wesley Church. Please bring a plate to share with others at the end of the service.

CORRECTION TO THE PREACHING PLAN - I realised after printing out the Preaching Plan that I made a mistake about the time of the Christmas Eve Service. **The correct time:** Supper will be at 10.30pm and the service will start at 11pm.

Parish Links

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Bible Study: In June/July this year Rev Siosifa & Rev Rod ran a course called “The Bible with Attitude Digging Deeper” the material prepared by Rev. Doctors Sarah and Rod Mitchell. The seven members of the combined churches found it a very good chance to discuss in depth the bible and what it meant to them. It was followed by a cuppa and was a good chance for a time of fellowship together.

Pulpit Swap: Each year the Taieri Christian Ministry Association have a “Pulpit Swap”. This gives every church on the Taieri a chance to preach in one another’s churches, which is very much enjoyed by the parishioners. This year’s Chairperson for the TCMA is our own Elaine Merrett. We meet once a month for a chance to pray for ALL the churches on the Taieri, as well as having bi-annual meetings.

Mid-Week Service: This is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Mosgiel Church/Hall at 2pm where we have a reflection on a bible reading and a sing-along, followed by a cuppa. ALL are always welcome to attend.

Annual Church Dinner: This is held after our AGM when we go to the Mosgiel Railway & Function Centre. It’s a lovely social time, with a special carriage as a children’s play area, so very relaxing for the parents. A very sumptuous 2 course meal is served, with seconds available. It is always very well supported by our church family & spouses.

Afternoon teas: These are held at “Blackstone Café” at 2pm on a Friday afternoon, on a regular basis. It is purely a social time and the chatter proves it to be a very good chance for a catch up.

It is refreshing to note that such a kindred spirit exists in our church and is growing steadily as we share in activities together.

IT'S BEEN A GOOD YEAR for both Pole boys, SOLOMON (left) and SEKONAIA, and a pleasure it was to see them at Mornington two weeks ago. It has been especially good for their rugby careers.

SOLOMON was home for a brief leave from his Suntory Rugby Club in Tokyo and spoke freely of the challenges, for him, of playing in the top league of Japanese club rugby. He plays in his accustomed No 8 position and has won promotion to the run-on team - his club being locked in a struggle for first place with only 4 weeks before the end of the season. But it is not just the rugby. A professional player in Japan is expected to give total commitment - in training, in community relations, in personal standards, in learning the language and in all-round support of the team. Solomon says it has made him a better all-round person. His contract has been renewed for 2017 and he will be home for two months in about six weeks - his chief objective, more of his mother's cooking!

SEKONAIA's rugby progress has been at home where he made the Otago Mitre 10 Squad in his chosen position as hooker. A highly competitive team with current All Blacks in the mix. It's a great environment for Sekonaia to develop his game and every time he takes



the field against one of the other NZ provinces it's a bonus. At the same time he has kept up his studies for B.Econ. at OU, and continues as Housemaster at Otago Boys. A busy life! Go well, young men!

CHURCHES IN WHITBY STREET DURING ADVENT - Next Sunday, November 27, our Mornington Methodist congregation will worship with the congregation of St Mary's Anglican church at their nearby church at the usual time of 9.30am. On the following Sunday, December 4 the St Mary's congregation will join us in our church, and the same pattern will be repeated on December 11 (worship at St Mary's) and December 18 (combined worship in our church). This is both an experiment in ecumenical action during the period of Advent, and an expression of mutual friendship and support following the recent signing of the Methodist-Anglican concordat. Please note the change of venue for the two Sundays, November 27 and December 11, and let us join our Anglican friends in worship together as we approach Christmas.

DEAR PARISH MEMBERS - encouraged by Siosifa's use of courageous prophetic material in last Sunday's reflection, I am passing on for our consideration a letter I received this week from a group called Faithful America. They are a Catholic Group formed originally to protest abuses by bishops and priests, and to support the newly installed Pope Francis. In recent months they have extended their voice to condemn the worst aspects of the Donald Trump campaign, and support for that campaign by rightwing evangelicals and conservatives, both Catholic and Protestant. You will be aware that since the election, despite conciliatory remarks from Trump himself, there have been terrifying outbreaks of violence against minorities all around the US. The question many are asking is "is this to be a bi-product of the coming Trump Presidency?"

Here is an excerpt from a recent Faithful America letter.

Today is a difficult day to be a Christian in America. Donald Trump won among both Protestants and Catholics. His strongest support came from white evangelical protestants, by a whopping 81-16 margin. The sad reality is that tens of millions of our fellow Christians have flocked to a false messiah preaching a gospel of hatred and scapegoating. Of course, scripture and church history are full of stories of how God's

people have become fearful and turned to false idols. God never abandoned them, and God will not abandon us now.

But following Jesus has never been easy, and in President Trump's America it will require even greater courage. Some among us, and some of our neighbors, may soon find their safety under particular threat - especially Muslims, Latinos, immigrants, and the poor. Following the examples of the saints and martyrs who came before us, we must be prepared to risk our own safety and well-being to defend those whom Jesus called the "least of these" from violence and degradation.

We don't know exactly what a Trump administration will bring. But each of us must now commit, prayerfully and intentionally, to resisting - in the name of Christ - any and all attacks on the most vulnerable among us.

- Michael Sherrard. *Faithful America*

To join the Faithful America network write to mail@faithfulamerica.org

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 20

Mosguel Nov 27

FROM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT MOSGIEL WED 16TH NOV

- Feb 2017 we are all invited to Otākau marae for Waitangi celebrations, talks, displays. We plan to have a Methodist table, possibly selling cards and hymn books. Ideas welcome.
- We are short of a Parish Steward and the two serving now have completed the usual term. Do give this careful thought. More later.
- Wesley property has been sold along with the Methodist Mission for \$800,000. This will be divided based on valuations, commission deducted, other costs deducted. Not sure of final amount due to us yet.
- We've had an engineer carefully inspect St Kilda and Glenaven churches and await plans.
- The Parish has \$10,000 from the Wesleydale Trust for technology. Rod, Colin and others are busy on several possibilities.
- Health and Safety has become a major challenge with the new law. We will need to have fire drills, a fire warden, a hazard register, a communications book for all groups who use the buildings, etc. Thanks to Rachael Hanna for getting us started.



THE RIVER OF LIFE

Let's take the river as a metaphor for life. One certain thing about rivers and streams is: they always run down -- unless dammed, or channelled into those old water-races of Central Otago, where they were carried horizontally for long distances, and the water

let down only at specific times and at specific points to water orchards or farms.

So, if life always runs down, what do we mean by the term 'uphill struggle'? Maybe we are trying to do something that lives don't usually do -- unless we force them. If you're having an uphill struggle, consider if it might be better to *go with the flow*...

As water runs down, it joins other water that has run down already. The bigger river receives smaller streams into itself; sometimes two bigger rivers merge -- as in Alexandra, where the mighty Clutha is joined by the not-so-mighty but rather lovely Manuherikia, which has its own, separate and unique personality. In life we do receive, receive and keep on receiving. When we give, (if we are a river), it is usually to other rivers, to make them bigger.

Our biggest gift, one that happens only once, is made when we reach the end of our course, and surrender to Ocean. All life once came from the sea, and all rivers -- all our lives -- return to it, *Crossing the Bar*, as Tennyson said in his famous poem, and merging with all the other lives that have ever been. If the river is a metaphor for life, Ocean could be another way to understand God: as some theologians have put it, Being rather than A being.

When we are in God we are in our element, a river joined with all other rivers so you can't see the difference.

What is the context for me to suggest we *go with the flow*? It is about the most fraught I can remember in a long while -- since the earthquake in Japan, where my son was living, led to a tsunami which destroyed nuclear reactors built on the coast... We have had the Kaikoura earthquake, spreading shocks and flooding badly affecting Wellington, communications and transport disrupted, at the same time as an anniversary crisis for the families of the 29 who died in the Pike River mine, and a shocking political earthquake in the US elections, after a hate-fuelled campaign.

What do rivers do? They carry on carrying on, receiving from and giving to each other. There is no alternative. *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

-- Helen Watson White

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

-- Alfred Tennyson (1889)

'This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.'

-- Toni Morrison

I did my best, it wasn't much
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you
And even though it all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
with nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah
-- from 'Hallelujah' (Leonard Cohen)