



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz	
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

12th March 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19th March

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & LMT Harvest Festival
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

METHODIST AND ANGLICAN COMBINED SERVICE

The Mosgiel Methodist Church and The St Luke Anglican Church will have a combined service on Sunday the 26th of March, 7pm at St Luke Anglican Church. The vicar of Luke, Malcolm Falloon will lead this service but we will all participate. Please come along and support this new venture that our church takes.

PARISH STEWARDS - We need two people in the Parish to take the role of Parish Steward. If you feel that this is your call, please contact either Siosifa or Rod.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Lenten Bible Study started on Wednesday the 8th of March but anyone who wants to join this week is most welcome. It starts at 7pm at Mosgiel Methodist Church.

OPEN EDUCATION: THE LAMPEDUSA CROSS

We begin this year's series with a really special event. The Muslim community and the Syrian refugee families have been invited to the Mornington Methodist church on Wednesday 15 March at 7.30pm to share the story of the remarkable Lampedusa Cross, and of the people of Lampedusa who have borne the brunt of the refugee fleets sailing from North Africa to reach a haven in Europe. It is important that as many of our community as possible be there to welcome these people of another faith who are venturing onto strange territory for them. Please come if you possibly can.

We will run the usual pre-session meal for a charge of \$15 and please book ahead for that (ring Judy Russell at 455 3727). But we will also offer a simple after-talk supper for all the audience. Let us show that as a Christian community we welcome people of other faiths, and especially those with a terrible story of war and hardships we can scarcely imagine behind them as they try to settle in our city and make a new life for themselves.

PRAYER REQUESTS - Prayer is a vital part of our Christian faith. Please pray for the future of our church and its leadership. Please also pray for our sick and the frail.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd March at 2pm where we will be talking about the Special Project for 2016-2017, which focuses on families and the prevention of gender based violence. The international project working with CWS and their partner Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua, will fund more training programmes so young people and families can tackle the violence that is damaging their lives.

The New Zealand project works with families affected by Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a term that describes adverse development that can occur when a person is exposed to alcohol whilst in the womb. Our speaker on this subject will be Dr Jenny Salmon.

BREATHING LIFE INTO CITY SPACES AND COMMUNITY PLACES WITH GAP FILLER

Monday 27 March
9.30am to 12.30pm

Dunedin City New Life Church
48 Stafford St
Dunedin 9016

What

3-hour free workshop with kai

Learn about grassroots creativity

Hear real-life examples and first-hand experience from Christchurch and beyond

Explore how you can tap into the creative energy of your neighbourhood

Get inspired and equipped to lead change in your neighbourhood

Who should attend?

Local community groups, artists, businesses, architects, landowners, librarians, designers, students, teachers, engineers, dancers... anyone with an idea and initiative!

What is Gap Filler?

Gap Filler help local people to tap into the creative energy of their neighbourhoods. They've created around 70 projects in Christchurch over the past five years. For more information, visit: www.gapfiller.org.nz.

Workshop limited to 40 participants. To reserve your place email: janine.hunt-ross@dcc.govt.nz





Turning Towards Life

The recent Chapter Call of the Dominican Sisters Aotearoa, says, 'We choose to be part of a turning towards life, a future we will not see but for which we sow seeds.' During times of huge global concern, this prophetic call has prompted an invitation by the Dominican Sisters Aotearoa to Margaret Galiardi OP and Sharon Zayac OP to come to New Zealand. With huge passion and commitment to human and eco justice they will be facilitating a number of workshops and retreats around the country.

DUNEDIN

Turning towards Life: *Renewing ourselves as we work for a Sustainable Planet*

Where:	Burns Lodge Holy Cross Centre, 89 Church Street, Mosgiel
When:	Saturday 25 th March 2017
Time:	9.30am - 4.30pm
Cost:	Waged: \$30.00 Unwaged: \$15.00
Registration & Contact:	Sandra Winton OP <i>email: swinton@clear.net.nz Phone: 03 471 8009</i>

RSVP by 20th March 2017. Morning and Afternoon tea provided. BYO Lunch

Margaret Galiardi OP is a Dominican Sister from Amityville, New York. She has lectured nationally on ecological theology and spirituality, the "New Story and the Christian Story," and the work of Thomas Berry. In addition, she has created numerous original retreats, workshops and lectures in response to expressed needs.

Margaret is a trained Spiritual Director and served as the Executive Director of the Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford, Connecticut.

She spent the 2009-2010 year in silence and solitude, living with Trappist Sister-Monks in their monastery on the Lost Coast of Northern California in the Redwood Forest.

Margaret has published two books and holds a number of positions in relation mediation and advocacy.



Sharon Zayac OP is Dominican Sister of Springfield, Illinois. She is the Director of Jubilee Farm, her congregation's 111-acre centre for ecology and spirituality, which lies just west of Springfield, Illinois. In 2008 Sharon joined 139 others for training by Al Gore to present his award winning *An Inconvenient Truth* from a faith-based perspective.



In 2015 Sharon was one of the panellists speaking to the encyclical *Laudato Si'* hosted by the Catholic Conference of Ohio Bishops and the Catholic Climate Covenant.

Sharon writes, lectures, and gives retreats in and outside the U.S. She speaks on any number of ecological topics, but her passion is sharing the Universe Story and its implications for life and faith.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens Kotuku Room: The children and teachers in the Kotuku group have been working on building a classroom environment where children understand how their words and actions affect others. They have been doing this through using the metaphor of an invisible bucket which everyone carries with them. When we are happy and feel good about ourselves our bucket is full. But when we are sad and don't feel good about ourselves our bucket is empty. We can choose to fill up our own bucket and others buckets by being kind, saying positive things, listening and being helpful as when we do these things for others then we feel good. Or we can be bucket dippers by making others feel sad.

As a class we decided that we wanted to be a class of bucket fillers so we revisit this each mat time where we discuss how and what we have done to fill our class bucket then place pompoms in a bucket so that the children can see how we are doing. We also discuss what we have seen that means someone has dipped or taken from our class bucket and pom poms are removed accordingly.

Once our bucket is full we are going to have a celebration of our success to being a bucket filling class.

So far our conversations have seen children talking openly and positively about our goal where they refer to how others actions make them feel and they refer to their bucket particularly when someone is dipping it.

In order to help build the children's resilience to how others make them feel we discussed how you can put your lid on your bucket and

not let other people's words and actions make you feel sad. This too has begun to trickle through in the playground where a 4 year old came up to me and said that they had been pushed by another child, when I asked who they said it's ok Kylie I put my lid on my bucket so they couldn't dip out of it before walking off smiling and feeling very proud of themselves.

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.



WHOSE MORALITY

We've been asked, rightly in my judgement, to put our names to a petition concerning pornography. The insidious abuse and misuse of electronic communications to snare and compromise individuals is an example of the alarming, but wholly logical, extension of the way in which we now prefer to engage with each other. The formalities of correct behaviour and proper language are in the discard. For good or ill the demands of the key-pad seem to push into the background the value of the considered response.

By the way, in respect to matters electronic this writer is an old fogey – which term probably comes from 18th century Scotland, and refers to decrepit or retired soldiers. Is there also the risk that to talk of morality turns the speaker into an old fogey.

The parliamentary petition belongs to the 21st century. For another purpose I explored the *Otago Daily Times* for this week exactly 100 years ago. I came across an item that helps illustrate the point of this article.

There was a report of ‘an address to ladies’ at the Art Gallery given by a Miss Austen. The subject was “Should a Child be Taught the Science of Life?” It was reported that Miss Austen spoke in an interesting and tactful way on what the newspaper called a “delicate problem.” What she said was received with keen interest and appreciation. Miss Austen was noted elsewhere as representing the ‘Social Purity Movement’ and had been giving lectures around the country for a number of years. But there’s little to go on in respect to her subject matter, or herself for that matter.

One might imagine it was more to do with human biology than what would today be covered in sex education – if that is still a current term. Miss Austen was on a mission to impress mothers and girls on the ‘essentials of life’, and her overriding objective was the happiness of the individual, the family, and the nation. ‘Fit for purpose’ for its time, to use another current phrase. In respect to public morality today, what is ‘fit for purpose’?

What topic is there that is so important to you that you would want to enforce your way of thinking about it? Put that way the answer, most likely, is hardly anything. We live in what might still be called a permissive society. The faith system to which we belong is grounded in love and acceptance. Our particular denominational flag is rainbow-coloured in celebration of inclusivity. Despite the emphases of our TV news editors are we comfortable with a political system that is confrontational. We like our right and our left to be not too far from the centre – don’t we!

We look with horror at the extremism that prevails almost everywhere else on the planet. But we are a small nation, and about as far from the centre of things as it is possible to be. In fact, it is comforting, and safe in its way, to be like that, for it is a sort of excuse for not raising our voices.

Of course that's an exaggeration. We are a concerned people, and for all our short-comings we have an enviable record in human rights for example. So if the world out there doesn't take time to listen to what we have to say, or learn from the unique experience that has been ours over the past two centuries, we still need, must, learn from each other. And there is a lot of learning to be done.

Miss Austen was concerned for the happiness of our nation. Surely, in 2017, we should have a vital concern for what we fairly believe is detrimental to good order, to the exercise of justice, to the care of our corner of creation, to the respect and welfare of our neighbours. How might we Dunedin Methodists go about this?

However much I respect the pulpit on a Sunday, it cannot remain the primary focus of our sharing the Good News of the Gospel. And however inept I may be in respect to electronic communication I am certain that that is where the future of our evangelism must lie. We are at this very moment considering the future of Dunedin Methodism. I happen to think that we may be as well placed as any body within the Connexion, or any group within the Dunedin community, to explore the possibility of reaching out by such means to our neighbour – not just on Sunday, but 24/7.

Not to harangue, but to share. Not to judge, but to stand alongside. And in spite of the lightning speed of communication, to take time, to listen, to reason together, to take more time. And only then to decide.

Donald Phillipps