



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

4th June 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11th June

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

COMBINED PENTECOST ECUMENICAL SERVICE – Tonight, at Mornington Methodist Church, 7pm. Members of the Inner-City churches will join together in this service to celebrate Christianity unity in our City. Please bring a plate for supper at the end of the service. Please wear red coloured clothes for this service to symbolise the tongues of fire.”

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 6th June 1.30 pm in the hall our speaker is Judy Knox - volunteering for DOC ALL WELCOME.

OPEN EDUCATION - Following a very successful presentation by Bishop Richard Randerson on the steadily growing and tragic divide between rich and poor in this country, the next Open Education session turns to its ecology theme. *Le Foret* (The Forest) is an extraordinary, prize-winning film on the life-cycle of a great tropical forest, made by the French filmmaker who created *The March of the Penguins*. It will be shown on Wednesday, 21 June, at 7.30 at the Mornington Methodist Church in Galloway Street (koha \$5). There will be the usual delicious pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell (\$15). Sign in for the meal or ring Judy for your booking (4553727). Proceeds will go to the Peninsula Trust responsible for protecting the native wild life on our own Otago peninsula. Bring a Green Friend or two.

CONNECTIONS - THE 2014 BOOK. There is continued demand for the booklet we gave away to every member of our Parish mid-year 2014. We have met requests from interested parties and our small supply has run down to none, ZILCH!!

Do you have a spare copy in your house??? Or, have you read *Connections* and would be willing to return your copy so that we can keep on with our policy of giving the book to important visitors as a symbol of the life of our Parish??

Either way, would you consider returning the gift of *Connections* in the same spirit as it was given to you?? We would very much like to replenish our small reserve stock. Please help us.

****Call Ken Russell at Ph 455.3727 and he'll be pleased to collect your gift. THANKS****

HERE ARE PHOTOS from the Parish Game Evening at Mosgiel Methodist Hall. Young and old were having fun together from indoor bowling, egg racing, card playing, etc. Thanks to all those who came and made the evening enjoyable. Thanks to the members of the Mosgiel Methodist Church for hosting the event.



CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR FOR THE HOMELESS?

Volunteers Needed

We are holding our ANNUAL APPEAL

from Tuesday July 25th to Saturday July 29th.

Collections are at supermarkets, on the street and
at the Farmers Market.

If you are able to help, please call Carol on 477 0546.

**STORIES FROM THE MISSION**

Client Support Work: A lady walked into the Milton office distressed looking for support to access her IRD online account and print necessary paperwork for her lawyer as she was going through the Family Court in regards to marital property. Mary (not her real name) said she could go to the local Library to access their computer but didn't feel confident her paperwork or login would be confidential in a public place, so opted to come to The Hub to see if she could get help. Mary stated she was aware there would be confidentiality clauses that would keep her information confidential at the Hub. Mary also disclosed she was not computer literate and gets frustrated easily as she doesn't know what she is doing. Mary was supported to do what she needed to do online and was able to print off her information for her lawyer. Talking about her PCOMS scores, Mary said she is 'usually a box of fluffies' however due to her ex-husband making things difficult she has been feeling quite stressed. Mary appreciated being able to come into a place where she could get help knowing it would be confidential. Mary was very thankful for the help and time.

Little Citizens: There have been some changes in dynamics in the Kiwi Room, as in May six children turned 2 and moved in to the Tui Room. As children approach 20 to 24 months, their language, complexity of play, and concentration increases, so we can share extended, engaged periods of play at the art easels, playdough table, or puzzles. This can often be a lot of fun, because there are more opportunities for conversation, taking responsibilities and social interactions. A large focus for our planning in recent months has been on language development and developing social competency skills for this group of children. Our Two Year Old Milestones show that almost all six children are achieving well in social, language, physical and intellectual development. Now we have a group of 4 babies, so the dynamic has changed with a lot of care routines taking priority, such as preparing and feeding bottles and settling infants to sleep. The infants are developing physical skills such as rolling, sitting and crawling, so preparing the environment for tummy time and time exploring on the floor is now a planning focus.



PENTECOST MANCHESTER

Kiwi woman Judy Parker is credited with this story, originally titled "The Hat"

A priest looked up from the psalms on the lectern, cast his eyes over all the hats bowed before him. Feathered, frilled, felt hats in rows like faces. But there was one at the end of the row that was different. What was she thinking, a head without a hat!

As the congregation rose to sing the hymn, the priest discreetly left the lectern and sidled up to the offending hatless woman. I'm sorry, madam, you must wear a hat and gloves here in the house of God. You are unseemly.

The woman flushed, raised her chin, and strode out.

“That’s the last we’ll see of her,” muttered resplendent Mrs Dewsbury.

*Later, as the great organ rang out, the priest allowed his eyes to lower from the magnificence of the lofty rose window to behold a sight that would forever haunt his memories. He saw the woman in hat and gloves advancing down the aisle as though she were a bride. The hat, enormous, such as one might wear to the races. Gloves, black lace, such as one might wear to meet the Pope. Shoes, high-heeled, such as one might wear on a catwalk in Paris. **And nothing else.**(abridged)*

Not bad as a Pentecost metaphor. The heroine of this story puts us all on notice that the Spirit of God, even if squeezed into a mould by convention and snobbery, will break out, free, uninhibited, and unashamed. Rather than asking ourselves whether we should be even slightly offended by such an outrageous image, let's admit the story and let it speak to our situation this Pentecost day.

Many Pentecost scholars have made links with the Tower of Babel story in Genesis. Babel would have been a familiar one to the people in Luke's community, telling of the chaos that ensues when tribalism goes rampant. Human arrogance is laid bare. The futility of selfish human ambition is displayed for all to see, and the result is doom and destruction. By contrast, in the Pentecost narrative tribalism is set aside and the crowd in Jerusalem, of every race and creed in the Mediterranean world, Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappodocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, even Romans, experience a spontaneous, overwhelming spirit of unity.

I like the Babel/Pentecost association. It is as significant of the world of the 21st Century as it most certainly would have been for the people of the Judean/Gentile community for whom Luke wrote. The perils of tribalism which pits one people against another and one culture against

another were deeply ingrained in the religious traditions of the first century. Jesus is not just another prophet polarising even further the multitude of ethnicities in the ancient world. With his radical ethic of self giving, of unconditional goodwill, he draws people together, not by the rule of authority but by the persuasion of love and compassion.

On this day of Pentecost we should be eagerly searching the modern world for contemporary pentecosts. And we should expect to find them. And I do not mean we should be looking for supernatural evidence, flames, tongues etc.

The media is overloaded with "babel" - homelessness, famine, violence, genocide, crimes against humanity, and we cry out daily for respite from the catalogue of human misery and fear which every day's news presents in graphic detail. So I'll give you a Pentecost, or at least the potential for it! Where, and when, you say.

On this very day in Manchester England pop star Ariana Grande will return to headline a star-studded "One Love Manchester " concert in memory of the victims of the bombing attack on her show. "We will not quit or operate in fear. We won't let this divide us. We won't let hate win," she says. "Our response to this violence must be to come closer together, to help each other, to love more, to sing louder and to live more kindly and generously than we did before."

World television rights for the show are already arranged, and I can foresee one of the largest Tv audiences ever is guaranteed as younger people in every nation and culture identify with the aims of the return show.

Some of the biggest names of the pop world, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Pharrell Williams are hardly everyone's idea of a new Pentecost, but don't be too quick to dismiss the versatility of the Spirit! The first Pentecost did not feature religious or political leadership - it

was a spontaneous outpouring among dejected disciples, children, fishermen, artisans, pilgrims and tourists, people with ostensibly nothing in common. But the Spirit tapped into a common need, a thirst, a hunger, and tribalism was defeated even in the heart of tribal Jerusalem. And it proved irresistible.

And what will be different about Pentecost Manchester? Nothing much. Millions of the youth of the world, whether at the Old Trafford stadium or through the world-wide television audience, will unite in a popfest so laced with positive potential as to galvanise a generation of the world's youth to claim a better way, of peace, unity and mutual acceptance. Such is the power and influence of pop culture, borne by television into every corner of planet earth, that a 21st cent Pentecost uprising should be prayed for TODAY.

At the Jesus Pentecost the followers of the way are challenged to think beyond tribalism, to dream dreams and see visions.

Imagine! Imagine a 21st century Pentecost where rather than speaking in languages that we've never understood before, we begin to listen to those who we've failed to understand before. Imagine a 21st century Pentecost where Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Taoists, Baha'is and atheists begin to listen to one another. Imagine an audacious Spirit calling us beyond Christianity's exclusivism.

Imagine a vision of Pentecost where the wind and the fire represent God out of the box. Reign of God is to be realized in all its chaotic splendour, we must put on a new hat, and strip ourselves of the ethnocentrism and chauvinism that cloaks our faith and walk brazenly down the aisle.

Ken Russell