



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| Presbyters: | Rev. Siosifa Pole | 455 2923 |
| | Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell | 477 3700 |
| Parish Stewards: | Mrs Hilda Hughson | 487 6226 |
| | Mrs Earlene Owens | 489 8146 |
| | Dale Meredith | 467 2070 |
| 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

20th Aug 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th August

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| 9.30 am | Mornington | R Mitchell |
| 10.00 am | Mosgiel | G Davis & LMT |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | R Mitchell |
| 1.00 pm | St Kilda | TBA |

PRAY FOR PEACE - The rhetoric and exchanging of words among world leaders, especially the leaders of North Korea and USA are threats to world peace. Please pray for compassion, care, and Common sense to be prevailed in this crucial time for global harmony.

CONGRATULATIONS to Elaine and Ross Merrett who will celebrate their Golden Wedding on Saturday 26th August 2017. May God continue to bless your marriage.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Our August Meeting will take place on the 23rd August in the Church Lounge at 2.p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be Mrs Phillipa Duffy & her subject is "Boiled Sweets, Book Room & Book Selling".... a sweet little History of the University Bookshop. This is a very interesting history of the building and the people working there. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

MISSIONAL CHURCH - I was very impressed with Rev Donald Phillipps Open Education presentation on Methodism. He emphasized that Methodism is a movement and therefore it is not static or confined in a particular location but it is mobile. He asked us three questions focusing on the using of our worship areas, the way to communicate the gospel, and the purpose of communicating the gospel. These three questions prompted me to ask another question, how can we become a missional church in this secular and pluralistic society?

WORKSHOP - NON LINEAR THINKING AS A TOOL FOR PEACEMAKING
Dr Sami Awad is a Palestinian Christian. Since founding Holy Land Trust in 1998 Sami has since been working for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land through nonviolence. His vision is to see this happen both on a local level and a global level, speaking in many different countries around the world, including a trip to India with the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

The workshop is free.

To register, please contact Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

Venue and date: Centre for Sustainability, 563 Castle St, Friday 8th September 10am - 3pm

Parish Links

NEWS FROM THE SAINT KILDA CHURCH CONGREGATION. AUGUST 2017.

1. It has been a relatively busy time for us here in the Saint Kilda Church. We have 10 new Lay Preachers (men and women) about to complete their training and become eligible to be included in our pool of accredited Lay Preachers. Two of them are from the Oamaru Tongan Congregation. Part of their final stage of training is to conduct an actual Service in the Church on a Wednesday evening. We have been blessed with some exciting mid-week sermons from these people. And of course we members of our Church showed our support and our encouragement by preparing a “feast” of thanksgiving at the end of every Service. This is both a personal ‘call’ to service and a response to the Biblical challenge for ‘labourers for the harvest’ in Matt 9.
2. It has been five years now that the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Otago sends its third year medical students to spend a day and a night with families of the Tongan Community. Each student is allocated to a host family to learn firsthand how we live our lives and to understand more about our culture. It is part of an Immersion programme that the Ministry of Health runs to better equip our young Doctors when they go out to the communities and deliver their services.
Students were welcomed into our presence on Saturday 15th of July with a traditional “kava ceremony.” This took place in our hall at Saint Kilda Church, then the students went off with their host families. Rev Siosifa conducted a combined Tongan community Service for to conclude the programme on Sunday 16th July with a feast afterwards of course!
3. On the same weekend, 14th-16th July, Sailosi Pole attended the last meeting for 2017 of the Vahefonua Tonga of Aotearoa in Auckland. The Chairman Rev Tevita Finau remains in his position for another three year term. It was good to meet up with other Church Stewards from various Tongan Congregations all over New Zealand.

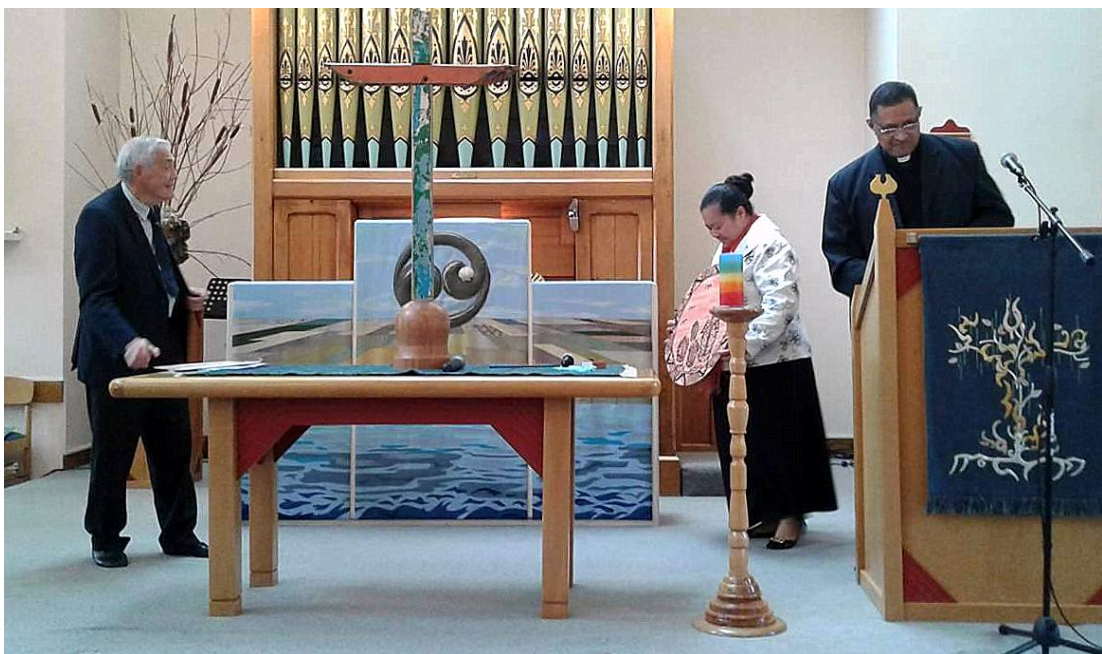
Malo ‘Aupito: Sailosi Pole

PARISH COUNCIL Wed August 9th was held at Mornington.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** September 10th at 10am KNOX CHURCH Combined Service. Guest preacher is this year's Peace Lecturer, Dr Sami Awat, a Christian from Palestine. (Lecture is Monday 11th)
- A small working group will study the paper on Leadership written by David Kitchingman on behalf of the Explorers Group, write a short summary and report back.
- Representatives from each congregation have met with Rev Peter Taylor, Synod Superintendent, to choose which names we want to be considered for Dunedin in the stationing process.
- Synod met in Dunedin 2 weeks ago. We individually voted for as many on the list of people nominated for President and Vice-President as we supported. There is no Conference this year.
- We cautiously agreed to join the new social services central group "Methodist Alliance". It is hoped this will become a strong voice nationally. Mainly information sharing at this stage.
- Glenaven earthquake strengthening work will mean combined services at Mornington, possibly during October. Should we meet at 10am?
- Parish annual statistics have been sent to the Connexional office. Membership is down about 20%.

AS I REACH MY THREESCORE YEARS and ten, I feel like celebrating the idea that God doesn't feel quite up to dealing with me yet. Please join me for a finger food pot luck lunch on Sunday 27th Aug, at Mornington Methodist Church, and we will enjoy one another's company. All welcome at the service at 9-30, led by Prof Colin Gibson, or else for the lunch beginning at about 1pm. **NO GIFTS, PLEASE, JUST THE PLEASURE OF HAVING YOU THERE.** Bev Sutherland

LAST SUNDAY COLIN WAS HONOURED for 25 years as a Lay Preacher. Colin explained that it was more like 50 years as he'd been thrown into leading worship one night in England when the minister couldn't make it through the snow! Naomi Pole presented Colin with a piece of Tongan art, created by a woman. Many folk wrote messages and signed the large thankyou card we gave him. Colin said he is still learning!



THE SOUTHERN YOUTH CHOIR (see photo) will sing at our Chaplaincy service of thanksgiving on graduation day Saturday 19th August 12.40-1.10pm in the Hunter Centre, opposite the Dental School.



All welcome. Please come along to celebrate with us. Please forward this invitation on to others.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/119087605386896/>

STORY FROM THE MISSION



Client Support Worker (ECE): Work with one particular client has come to a successful conclusion. This client was facing the possibility of becoming homeless, which led to him being referred to the Client Support Service. We identified this client's preferences and needs, and supported him in identifying options which could meet these. We also liaised with his wider whānau, with the final result being that this client will be moving closer to whānau support.

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.



STICKS AND STONES....

Calvin and Hobbes is a must each morning. Their names suggest a world where inescapable logic controls every action. Calvin is destined to do the opposite of everything that authority figures – his parents, Miss Wormwood his school-teacher, Mr Spittle the headmaster, and his long-suffering pediatrician – want him to do. He is also destined to wage eternal warfare, in his version of the battle of the sexes, with Susie Derkins. Almost invariably he loses, but not before he has engaged in some loud-mouthed name-calling.

One strip I remember came as part of his regular winter occupation – creating a vast arsenal of snow-balls to throw at Susie, preferably to catch her unawares. She outwits, or out-flanks him, every time. Though she wins, Calvin’s words sometimes do get under her skin. In this particular strip she is standing in the snow, looking very self-righteous, saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me!” Then she comes across a used snowball and is tempted – but that would be a step down from her moral high ground. In the last frame her head is down – “Yeah. Right.” - she says.

Susie’s little verse, which we’ve known all our lives, is of fairly recent origin in fact. Its first recorded appearance was in the 1860s, in *The Christian Recorder*, a publication of the [African Methodist Episcopal Church](#), where it, or something like it, is presented as an "old adage". Afro-Americans knew all about name-calling – they had been dismissively labelled for centuries. They still are, in some places.

Name-calling is a fact of life. It’s not a game, however, and the adults who engage in it aren’t to be excused for allowing the immature Calvin in each of them to surface. Name-calling is the very bottom level of what has been called the ‘hierarchy of disagreement’, and some people (politicians?) never rise above it. Is that too harsh?

To say something like - “You are an idiot” - and go no further is contemptible. To attack the integrity or personality of your target without addressing the substance of what they are saying or doing, or to criticize the tone of the words written or said without addressing the substance of an argument, is worthless. To contradict without providing supporting evidence is a fatal sign of weakness. I imagine we’ll have any amount of this over these last weeks of the election campaign. But politics doesn’t have to be like this.

Why not logical counter-argument, which contradicts, but which backs up the contradiction with sound reasoning and supporting evidence? Why not a balanced refutation that identifies the error, explains why it is mistaken, and backs up its case with words of authority? Why not objective debate, using rational (and humane) logic, to refute the basic tenets of the opposition’s position? Politics can be like this.

It would, of course, be cynical in the extreme to assert that these latter questions will always be answered in the negative. There are women and men standing for election who have the character and the abilities to do these things. The sad thing is that humane reasoning, and respectful dialogue have little place in electioneering. They are not, for sure, to the taste of a media dedicated to confrontation and large black and white headlines.

Remember: “Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account” Jesus knew all about name-calling. They pinned one on the cross.

To be in the right is to speak with authority, not to exercise power over others – it is to listen, rather than to talk down. What would happen if we were to choose our candidates with such a standard in mind. It might be worth a try.

Donald Phillipps