



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

24th Sep 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1st October

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole (AGM)
10.00 am	Mosguel	D Phillipps (Spring Flower Sunday)
11.00 am	Glenaven	SPole
11.30 pm	St Kilda	D Phillipps

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Our September meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be Nicky Page - Director of City of Literature (In December 2014 Dunedin became New Zealand's first ever UNESCO City of Literature). All welcome. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

EXPLORERS IN ACTION - The Sunday 24 September Explorers group led by Colin Gibson will explore the tricky business of Naming God. See you at 4.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Visitors welcome. Name tags optional!



90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - On behalf of the Parish, I would like to wish Ian Bartlett a Happy 90th Birthday on Friday 29th of September. We wish you God's blessing as you celebrate with your family and friends this great milestone.

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH SPRING FLOWER SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

A group will be at the church on Saturday 30 September at 3pm to put up a display. Please bring small bunches of flowers to the church either on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.

MORNINGTON METHODIST CHURCH AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as part of the service and following communion on 1 October.

If you are responsible for an annual report from your organisation and want it to be part of the AGM Report please submit it electronically if possible (by email) to Katrina at the Mission office (katrinar@mmmsouth.org.nz) not later than 12 noon on Friday 22 September.

If you have a matter you would like brought up for discussion at the AGM please contact the Chair, Colin Gibson, by the same date (phone 453 6662 or email colin.gibson22@vodafone.co.nz).

Unless I am otherwise notified, I will assume that you are willing to continue in whatever office you currently hold for a further year.

Ken Russell, Leaders Meeting Secretary

Interested in Studying Theology?

An Information Session about Theology Courses

Offered by the Department of Theology and
Religion, University of Otago

*in the Humanities Common Room - 1W9 - in the
Arts Building, Albany St*

Go up the stairs beside Burns 2.

Light refreshments provided

Theology is a subject of enormous personal interest, and you can include up to five of our papers in most Otago degrees. Come along and find out more about that as well as a full Bachelor's degree in Theology and the Diploma for Graduates and pathways into postgraduate study.



Tuesday 3rd October | 3:45pm | 1W9, Arts Bulding



IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE, for the Mornington Choir and the Congregation, when Rhiannon Cooper joins them for the morning service. Rhiannon and her mother Di came from Whangarei almost a year ago, a move prompted by Rhiannon's enrollment as a student

(singing) at OU's Music Dept. This has led her to an extremely busy life including membership of the NZ Youth Choir. And not without heaps of support from Mum, who on the way has become a popular member of our Choir. Rhiannon led the choir in a piece "A Simple Song", words by Stephen Schwartz and the music from a Leonard Bernstein Mass.

A SMALLER THAN USUAL

turnout (24) for the dinner and open education last Wednesday, nevertheless enjoyed a convivial meal together and an excellent meeting with three students from OU's Centre for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. The students



from England (Kieran Ford), the Philippines (Nick Tobia) and Indonesia (Dody Wilbowa) each brought a particular approach to peace and conflict resolution from their own national contexts, and succeeded in reminding us of just how complex is the task of making genuine and lasting peace in a world where conflict so easily arises between rival parties, each convinced of the rightness and justice of their own strongly held position. Photo: left to right Nick, Kieran and Dody. Dinner Cost \$205 Profit \$190



Little Citizens' Kotuku room: The final week of our ENGAGE trial has been completed. This has left us with conversations to be had around how we plan to incorporate aspects of the ENGAGE programme into our centre programme for the benefit of the children and how we aim to feed aspects of games through to the Tui room and then eventually into the Kiwi room. The main aspect of the programme that we are keen to focus on is the childrens inhibitory control as this helps them to learn how to control their reactions and responses leading to more positive interactions with their peers.

EarlyYears Hub: There has been a busy time at the Hub with School holidays proving to be a popular time to visit the Hub. We have had many families coming to just have a play, look at the Free to a good home table and check out what happening for next term. We are very grateful to the members of St Clair Rotary who have been to spread wood chips under some of the trees and will be coming back to repair the top of the brick wall outside the shed to provide seating in the area when the weather warms up . We would like to welcome Jenny from Jumpstart Nutrition who has come to offer “messy play” sessions to families.

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.



As I write, I'm very aware that what I'm thinking about this week may be very different from what we'll be thinking about on Sunday, post-election night! Will we be in the depths of despair, or the heights of jubilation, or somewhere in between?

Our world is in caught up in 'wars and rumours of wars' which lead me to another set of emotions – fear, anxiety and powerlessness. How can we ever hope to respond to these situations?

We know that the gospels are full of reassurances and what we used to call 'comfortable words'. Here's a selection: you probably have your own favourites:

"And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place but the end is not yet." (Matt 24: 6)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid". (John 14: 27)

"So do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:34)

"When anxiety was great within me your consolation brought me joy." (Psalm 94; 19)

However, these verses don't do much to allay my current fears, which range from the threat of nuclear winter and/or the massive destructive effects of climate change; to the lack of political will to bring about the positive social changes our society needs to help those who are struggling with inadequate housing and health provision; to wondering how to pay the mortgage this month.

Wondering about the opposite of fear, I searched on *google* and found some unexpected answers.

I particularly like this one because it takes us on a journey:

“The opposite of fear is acceptance, which leads to curiosity, which leads to a sense of understanding and even empathy, which leads to feelings of safety, trust, and finally, love”.

Sixteen years ago, at Trinity College, after spending months studying depression, grief and other such heavy topics I wrote a paper exploring happiness, entitled *“The Role of the Positive Emotions in the Pastoral Encounter”*. Like the rest of my student essays, it’s been sitting unread in a file in my computer ever since. However, working on the principle that nothing’s ever wasted and I might learn something, I had another look at it during this emotional ‘roller-coaster’ week.

The list of emotions I explored back then included delight, appreciation, joy, generosity, hope, compassion, and love.

Under ‘compassion’ I found the following: *Faber (1988) talks about the love which develops among a group which journeys together. He describes how the pilgrim group encourages each other, looking ahead to their destination, finding together a sense of freedom. He concludes: ‘where people return to the deepest source of life, they begin to live from humour and creativity. Both are essential components in an authentic life. They are also an expression of deep joy.’*

...A compassionate community which can also experience grief fully, will be enabled to find real gladness, rather than a shallow optimism. Then they will really be able to sing joyfully.

This reminds me of a time in my life when I was teaching group dynamics and conflict resolution, where we frequently encouraged people to *‘find your compassion’*. We hear this echoed in the words of a Sacred Circle Dance John and I used at our marriage in 1993. *‘Maybe this is the healing that we share this feeling and find a compassionate*

love, passing from my heart to heart to yours, passing from my heart to yours...'

'Compassion,' for Jesus, usually involves action, combined with love. In the gospels, we find many examples of this, such as: "*When he came ashore he saw a great crowd and he had compassion for them and healed their sick.*" (Matthew 14: 14.)

Returning to my paper, I identified some 'roles' we can use to develop those positive emotions'.

They are: the comic; the artist, (including poet, painter, musician, dancer); the mystic; the gardener and the friend. As we journey together, we find and share these roles among us on our way to creating a truly compassionate community.

The poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, reminds us of that constant presence within our hearts and moving among us, which we often call 'the comforter'. He has the last word!

*There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs -
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.
(from 'God's Grandeur')*

Marcia Hardy