



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

26 November 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3 December

9.30 am	Mornington	Siosifa Pole
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Donald Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	Siosifa Pole
11.30 am	St Kilda	Donald Phillipps

Dates to remember:

Today:	Explorers Group, Mornington, 4.30pm
29 November:	Advent Studies starting, Mosgiel, 7pm
2 December:	Christmas in the Stadium 2pm to 6pm
9 December:	Otago District MWF, Mornington, 2pm
16 December:	Holiday period Services due in 12 noon

EXPLORING A GREEN SPIRITUALITY - On **Sunday 26 November** at 4.30pm, at Mornington Methodist church, the Explorers' group holds its final business meeting for the year. Liz Petrie leads a discussion of Green Spirituality, by which is meant the rapidly emerging view of the planet on which we live as 'sacred space'. Climate warming, the extermination of hundreds of animal and other species, the plundering of natural resources—we haven't done well as God's stewards. Can anything be done, or is it too late? Can religion say anything worth hearing? If you are interested in the natural environment, and concerned at its dangerous degradation by human activity come along and join in the discussion.

ADVENT STUDIES will begin on **Wednesday 29 November**, at Mosgiel Methodist Church, starting 7pm. The material is using for the study is entitled, *The Voice of the Prophet*, by John Cox. He writes, "...it is worth noting at the outset that while the prophets are very often messengers of doom and gloom, berating the people of God and others for their failings and faithlessness, they are also the heralds of hope." Everyone in the Parish is welcome to this series of Advent Studies.

CHRISTMAS IN THE STADIUM is organized by the Acts of Kindness Charitable Trust and is being held at the Forsyth Barr Stadium (entrance through Gate C) on **Saturday 2 December** from 2pm to 6pm. Gold coin donation. Type of event: Carols and other live music plus children's activities - Gift making, toy swap, face painting, games, inflatables.



OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 9 December 2017 at Mornington Methodist Church at 2pm - "CHRISTMAS IS COMING".

Wear something Christmasy.

Please bring a plate of food per carload. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together.

MOSGIEL congregation wish to offer our sincere sympathy, love & prayers to Shirley Searle in the passing of her dearly loved sister Joan Sparrow.

MORNINGTON: Heather Rhodes (from next door) wishes everyone at Mornington a Happy Christmas, and a wonderful Summer. She looks forward to seeing us more in 2018. Heather has passed Year 3 of Medical school and is working at Anakiwa Outward Bound for 2 months over the holidays. (from a phone call to Hilda)

CHRISTMAS IN VIEW: Our Methodist Hub is looking for pots and pans and kitchen things of good quality, and blankets with warmth in them. Also, toys for Christmas stockings —not stuffed ones, though—for children of all ages. They will go to people who have little or nothing. Can you help? Deliver to 158 Oxford Street, South Dunedin, off Prince Albert Road, or ring Christine on 466 3407.

ORDERS OR SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Friday 22nd December and although we reopen on Monday 8th January, I do not return to work until Monday 15th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period (between 22nd Dec & 15th Jan) are sent to me admin@mmsouth.org.nz no later than **12 noon Friday 16th December**.

The final bulletin for 2017 will be the 17th December edition and the first bulletin for 2018 will be 21st January.

Thanks everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas. *Katrina*



HELEN MESSERVY on behalf of the Mornington MWF spent some time during notices on Sunday morning reporting all manner of things of interest to our women, concluding with an impromptu tribute to **JEANETTE GIBSON** for her unique contribution to the visual appeal of the Church. Sunday marked the 50th anniversary of the placing of the distinctive altar fall worked by Jeanette - just one of several works that Jeanette has created to adorn the Church, including the splendid hanging above the entrance depicting so many features of Dunedin and its harbour. Photo: Jeanette with flowers presented by Helen.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Little Citizens: The centre has had a busy time with new outings over the school

holidays which has created a buzz in the centre with children, parents and staff being very excited. We have been using the van which is a new experience for the children. We have had Des Ellery come and take class photos and individual photos which the families love. Some parents bring in the older siblings to have a lovely group photo taken of the children. Des the photographer is happy to do this. Dianne our new

cook is providing wonderful food and is currently working on making some changes to the menu in consultation with the healthy heart organisation. I have received a lot of positive comments from the children about the food. The centre has also had an increase of numbers for dinner.

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.

IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL recent visit to the Oamaru Anglican community by people from Mornington Methodist and St Mary's Anglican. We all appreciated the special qualities of both churches, at Oamaru and Mahene, distinctive for their very fine Oamaru stone construction. Special thanks to Cam Weston who showed great perseverance in organising the visit. A sideline benefit for some of us was the chance to ride through the historic precinct in a magnificent 1922 Buick roadster, owned by local man Neal. Photo: David Patrick, Rod Mitchell and owner Neal, after an exhilarating ride.



PUBLIC ISSUES NETWORK: Amongst all the policy activity on child poverty, Zero Carbon Act, the Trans Pacific Partnership, MSD scrapping client data collection and more, two matters of distress came to the fore:

- The **detainees** on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. New Zealand's offer to resettle 150 detainees was again refused by Australia.
- North Korea and the US remind us of the peril of nuclear aggression and the effects of a nuclear winter on agriculture.
- Hon. Gareth Evans acclaims NZ for championing nuclear disarmament. He spoke in Wellington and Auckland, saying the prospect of a nuclear accident is greater than the likelihood of war; and the real issue for North Korea is national survival, rather than war. Evans urges us to campaign for the UN the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty 2017. For information re Gareth Evans and militarization and disarmament. See

http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/pi_resources

We pray for peace and justice in these situations.

For Labour-led coalition highlights see

http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/index3

The *Climate Conversations* Resource is available as hard copy from Betsan or on the Public Questions website.



SOME YEARS AGO, I had a conversation with a Conservative Christian person who had a scientific training and was busy arguing that

all climate change was fraudulent and inaccurate and did not represent anything credible. I was initially taken aback by his response and wondered how best to respond. I knew that any approach from a biblical perspective would only fuel more vigorously the debate. So I decided intuitively to go for a simple argument that I hoped might make some sense. I, first of all, got agreement from him that creation

was something that was valuable and needed to be cared for. Then I suggested that whether the scientists were correct or not about climate change and predicted disasters, we as human beings needed to be responsible citizens who were willing to leave creation in a good state for the next generation. This response sent my Conservative Christian into a reflective silence, so the debate came to a shuddering halt. Since that time some ten years have past, I have wondered if a more satisfactory response could have been made. You the reader may have some immediate better suggestions from your own similar personal encounters. Or you could imaginatively test yourself out trying to respond to President Trump and his unwillingness to give any credence to the climate change issue.

Just recently I came across the 'Green Bible.' This is a international and inter denominational group of respected scholars hardly the light headed liberals who you might quickly be able to dismiss. At the back of the Green Bible there is a trail Guide which takes you through six key themes each of which is identified with some biblical passages for further exploration.

1. Theme 1: And it was good
 - a. Genesis 1:1 – 31; 2: 1 – 4
 - b. Genesis 9: 8 – 17
 - c. Psalm 24: 1 – 2
 - d. Job 38 – 39
 - e. Psalm 104
2. Theme 2: Finding God in and through creation
 - a. Exodus 3: 1 – 6
 - b. Psalm 147
 - c. John 1: 1-5
 - d. Colossians 1: 15-20
 - e. Acts 17: 24 - 28
3. Theme 3: Connected to Creation
 - a. Genesis 2: 4 – 25

- b. Exodus 23: 10 -13
- c. Leviticus 26: 3 – 26
- d. Revelation 11:15 – 19
- e. Psalm 65

4. Theme 4: Creation Care as Justice

- a. Micah 6:1 – 8
- b. Isaiah 58:10 – 12
- c. 2 Corinthians 5: 14 -21
- d. Luke 10: 25-37
- e. Matthew 25:31 - 46

5. Theme 5: The full Impact of Sin

- a. Genesis 3: 14 – 19
- b. Hosea 4: 1 – 3
- c. Ezekiel 34: 17 – 22
- d. Numbers 35: 33 – 34
- e. Romans 8:18 - 25

6. Theme 6: The New Earth

- a. Isaiah 11: 1 – 9
- b. Isaiah 65: 17 – 25
- c. Joel 2: 18 – 27
- d. Revelation 21: 1 – 5
- e. Revelation 22: 1 – 5

Finally there is a section in the Green Bible describing a number of very sensible and practical suggestions for how as individuals and as a church community we might contribute to improving our environment. Here's the 50th idea: Follow Grandmother's advice: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." What biblical passages might come to mind in relation to this piece of wisdom?

Rod