



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| | Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell | 453 3310 |
| Parish Stewards: | Mrs Earlene Owens | 489 8146 |
| | Dale Meredith | 467 2070 |
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PARISH BULLETIN

15th July 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22nd July

| | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 9.30 am | Mornington | R Mitchell |
| 10.00 am | Mosgiel | M Hardy |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | R Mitchell |
| 1.00 pm | St Kilda | TBA |

Dates to remember:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--|
| 17-23 July | | Siosifa on leave |
| 18 July | 7.30 pm | Open Education – Mornington Church |
| 25 July | 2.00 pm | Mosgiel Mid Week Service, 40 Forth |
| 28 July | 12.30 pm | Otago District MWF AGM, Mosgiel Church |
| 29 July | After 10 am | Service – Minister farewell – Mosgiel |

ANNUAL LEAVE - I will be on annual leave from Tuesday 17th to Monday 23rd of July. While I am away Rod Mitchell will take care of any major pastoral matters in the Parish. Thanks, Siosifa.

OPEN EDUCATION: BRING YOUR BROLLY!

On Wednesday 18 July at 7.30pm in the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Open Education will show a compelling film titled Monsoon, a BBC documentary about the effects of the Monsoon and the clearing of ancient forests to create palm oil plantations. An extraordinary reminder of the ecological damage humans are doing to their environment and the natural world. It will be preceded by the usual excellent meal catered by Judy Russell at 6pm. Koha for the film \$5, charge for the meal \$15. Ring Judy to book your place at the table (455 3727) or sign in at Mornington. Proceeds to the West Papuan Liberation Movement, for there huge damage has been caused by corporate mining companies.

MOSGIEL'S FINAL MID WEEK SERVICE is Wednesday 25 July, 2pm @ 40 Forth Street Mosgiel. Please note change of date.

**OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church
Saturday 28 July

12:30pm - POT LUCK LUNCH

Please bring FINGER FOOD to share.

Annual General Meeting to follow

Collection for Social services - going to the Family Support Fund

PARISH FAREWELL TO OUR MINISTER AND HIS FAMILY

A parish farewell to Siosifa and his family will be held immediately after the combined 10am service at Mosgiel on Sunday 29 July. Do join us to show our gratitude for his fine leadership and the warm participation of Naomi and the children in the life of the parish. Money has already been given, but if you are able to do so, please bring a gift of food to help provide an adequate morning tea for this important occasion.

STORIES FROM THE MISSION



Ōtepoti Youth Transition House: The panel heaters have been installed and everyone is warm and cosy. We have had some wonderful donations of toiletries, pantry items, tea towels, and storage containers and our thanks to the Methodist Women's Fellowship for these. Also from Mr and Mrs Ian Pearce and family donations of woollen blankets, lounge chairs and a big box of crockery from the which will come in very handy for any residents looking to start out in a flat. There is still a need for towels and storage containers.

We are very excited to be having underfloor insulation installed this month thanks the owners of the House. This will make a huge difference for our residents.

There has been some great baking produced this month with the residents keen to develop their skills.

We have made contact with a local landlord who may be interested in working with us to help secure some sustainable accommodation for some of our residents.

The young people all have plans and have met with Sean to look at their goals. On a really high note, one of our young people has just successfully transitioned into a flatting situation. We have one vacancy (that is looking like it will be filled by the end of the week!).

Next Step Training: One of our students was referred to us by the Early Intervention Service. Since enrolling in July 2017 she has been working towards Foundation 1 & Foundation 2. She was described as having a mild ID and came to us after her learning at school was interrupted by psychosis. She has worked really hard and benefited from lots of one-to-one tutoring. She achieved Foundation 1 and NCEA 1 in 2017 and has just achieved NCEA 2. Because she has only two weeks left to complete her year with NST and still requires seven units to complete Foundation 2 it is unlikely that she will have time to finish her Foundation 2 qualification.

She is very keen to join Malcam Trust when she leaves us in late July and further to that hopes to find a job. She will be spending time at Artsentsa in Princes Street and will continue her work with EIS.

Staff at NST have all noticed the huge change in this student's outlook and confidence over the time she has been with us. Her mother recently told me that being at NST had changed her daughter's life.

Dunedin Little Citizens: The children performed some songs for the families and there was Matariki artwork on the walls. We have a lot of new families to the centre and they were blown away by the organisation of the event, the scrumptious food and the generosity of Little Citizens and the Methodist Mission to put on a dinner for free. The celebration was the busiest event we have held, with some families not being able to attend after we had over 170 whanau members confirm they were attending.

THE DEATH OF CAROLYNNE LABES has had a profound effect on the small Glenaven Church community, sufficient to warrant morphing Sunday's regular service into a memorial for Carolynne.

For a woman who wrestled with a life-long inability to articulate clearly, the testimony of all who stood to pay tribute was evidence enough that the witness of her life was testimony enough - Carolynne believed implicitly in the inclusive nature of true community, and at Glenaven she was a constant reminder that we should never forget it. Perhaps the most compelling tribute to Carolynne came not from the succession of her church friends but a young solo mother from the Glenaven neighbourhood who gave an emotional tribute to the way Carolynne identified with her and her young children and embodied for them the caring spirit we as a congregation learn from Jesus.

Many are the tributes we sincerely pay to Carolynne's memory - family stalwart, loyal member, community embodier, subtle humorist. Carolynn Labers was always a challenge - to our patience and our often-limited perception of what is important. CAROLYNN R.I.P

Photo Terry Mactavish and Helen Watson White pay tribute in the resplendent Glenaven sanctuary.





LIVING TOGETHER IN THE GRAND BOUQUET
*Mine is a church where every body's welcome,
 (I know it's true 'cause I got through the door.)*

*We are a dazzling bouquet, all sorts of flowers ----
 jump in the vase, 'cause we got space for more.*

*We don't simply tolerate each other,
 - we ask and tell, we don't just turn away,
 we give our attention to each bud and blossom,
 let every face come grace the grand bouquet!*

Some of the words from the song, "A Dazzling Bouquet",
 by American composer and writer Bret Hesla.

A song the Mornington Church choir sing, and enjoy singing.

It fits well with our "*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*"

"God does not show favouritism." Rom.2:11

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you
 are all one in Christ Jesus."* Gal.3:28

Television, if it has done nothing else, has brought the world to our living rooms, with all its diversity especially so in the human race. But we do not need to go far from our living rooms to experience that diversity. For in Dunedin, so far from the many other countries, we can cross paths with a wide array of cultures just by walking along the main street or on a visit to the hospital, or at the sports field, at school or university, even at church.

When we see busy street scenes of London, Paris, Edinburgh or New York for instance, the diversity of skin colour, hair dress and clothing is marked. Not so long ago on a t.v. news item a reporter was asking people on the streets of Glasgow their view on home rule. He spoke to two

young coloured women, perhaps from Africa, they both spoke English with a Scottish accent.

“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself.” Leviticus 19:33

Here in New Zealand we are seeing more people of different nationalities coming to make their homes here. Apart from the odd incident these new citizens are welcomed and are becoming an accepted part of this country’s population.

Seen on television at the football cup in Russia are representatives of all races, not only as spectators, but within individual teams as they represent a country far from their ancestral home. Our New Zealand’s sports teams also have increasing numbers of incomers.

How encouraging it is to see the mix of nationalities that have come offering their help in rescuing the boys trapped underground in Thailand – what a horrible feeling with all that rock above and the rushing water around, not the old vision of hell, but a hellish place to be in.

Now just before this goes to ‘press’ the news that all are freed from their watery hell, wonderful news, a magnificent achievement. Sad at the loss of one of the rescuers, I hope he is recognised for his volunteering efforts.

Within the world-wide Christian community there are many races and skin colour – Christ did not discriminate, God does not discriminate. The church of Jesus Christ, is open to all we declare, it is without discrimination.

The writer of the book of James, thought to be the brother of Jesus, in his second chapter talks of the insult we make to those we discriminate against.

“Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:17

Mercy is far more than sentiment, it is faith that works through love, it is compassion without ifs and buts.

“Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy” Mat.5:7

The world has shrunk, well it's still the same size, more or less, but distances and travelling time, and of course being able to visit the people and their country via the television have brought the peoples of the world closer. We don't have to rely on myths and half-truths to understand our fellow beings. There is no excuse for viewing peoples of other nations through a jaundiced eye, for categorising and stereotyping, as Paul says in Romans 2:11 *“There is no partiality with God”*

I suppose the best way to move beyond mere 'understanding' is to be active and acknowledge those who are 'different', whether by colour or race or poor or oppressed, and find ways to engage, to be compassionate, tolerant, to contribute.

“Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:

Some quotes: *“In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher.”* Dalai Lama.

“The need of the moment is not one religion, but mutual respect and tolerance of the devotees of different religions.” Mahatma Gandhi.

“Tolerance is the greatest gift of the mind; it requires the same effort of the brain that takes to balance oneself on a bicycle.” Helen Keller.

So often through history, the Christian Church has been the source of disunity where disunity need not exist. As followers of Jesus Christ we must think and speak the truth in love. We must be motivated by God's love, not our own selfish motives.

Gordon Abernethy