



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| Presbyters: | Rev. David Poultney | 545 7181 |
| | Mobile | 022 350 2263 |
| | Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell | 453 3310 |
| Parish Stewards: | Mrs Earlene Owens | 489 8146 |
| | Dale Meredith | 467 2070 |
| | John Hardy | 472 7377 |
| Tongan Steward: | Mr Kaufusi Pole | 455 0096 |
| Parish Office: | David: parish@mmsouth.org.nz | 466 4600 |
| | Katrina: admin@mmsouth.org.nz | |
| Parish Prayer Convenor: | Elaine Merrett: elaineross@xtra.co.nz | 489 7663 |
| Pastoral Convenor Mornington: | Beryl Neutze | 476 7447 |

PARISH BULLETIN

7th October 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 14th October

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

Dates to remember:

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| 14 Oct | After Church Mosgiel AGM |
| 17 Oct | 7.30 pm Open Education – Mornington Church |

IT APPEARS THAT the majority of the parish are sending their notices straight to Katrina rather than to me as Bulletin Coordinator. Because of this I am removing myself as the coordinator. Please continue to send your notices to Katrina, and those who have been sending them to me, please start sending them directly to Katrina. Thanks, Rachael.

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to be held after the Church Service on the 14 October. After the meeting we are having lunch at Weavers. Would you please let Elaine Merrett (489 7663) know before the 7 October if you are coming to the lunch.

OPEN EDUCATION: STUDIES IN PEACE AND CONFLICT

For the final Open Education meeting for the year, four more students from the University of Otago's National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies will talk about what they have been researching, ranging from conflicts over water rights to anti-discrimination programmes in schools. Join us at the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 October. Koha \$5, all proceeds go to the West Papuan Liberation Movement, seeking to free that country from oppressive Indonesian domination.

As usual a catered meal will be provided by Judy Russell: excellent value for \$15 (sign in at the Mornington church or ring 455 3727 for your booked place at the table).

THERE IS AN ARTICLE in the October edition of Touchstone by Rod Mitchell about his work on an alternative lectionary. It is anticipated that we trial this out at Mornington and Glenaven at some point.

WEST PAPUA and the SEARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

MEET **WENSISLAUS FATUBUN**, West Papuan film maker, environmentalist and human rights campaigner. (Photo) The camera is his "weapon of choice." **NEXT SUNDAY Oct 14 9.30am** at Mornington Church. **Also** Friday Oct 12 at St David Seminar Room 1 Cnr St David & Cumberland Sts, University of Otago. *Your chance to learn a whole lot more about what is really happening among the oppressed people of West Papua.*



CONGRATULATIONS to Shirley Ungemuth, Shirley was ordained a deaconess at Conference 50 years ago.

CONGRATULATIONS to Marcia Hardy on being received back in to Full Connexion.

MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH - FIRE DRILL

During one of the services in October it is intended that we hold a fire drill in compliance with safety procedures. Fire Wardens will be the persons on the door for that day. When a whistle sounds proceed to the marked EXIT signs in an orderly manner. The designated fire wardens will see that you reach the assembly point safely. (This is at the church gates). They will check the building to ensure it is cleared. This should only take a few minutes.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Next Step: Over the last two weeks we have noticed that one of our new students often appears to be anxious. The student, Daniel, has told us about two sources of anxiety for him. One is the recent death of a close friend, for whom he says that he feels a lot of grief.

The other is being around other young people. Daniel says that he thinks that they are judging him, that he was bullied at his last school and thinks that other young people will also bully him.

Hannah, our tutor, noticed that Daniel also becomes anxious when she needs to attend to other students or when another student interrupts her when she is working with Daniel.

We talked to Daniel about how we can support him to prepare for the Polytechnic environment, and suggested that he uses his time at NST to find and practise ways of being a more independent learner, and asked him to work with Hannah on developing ways of doing this.

Daniel is very focussed on his goal to achieve NCEA 2 and enrol in the Polytechnic carpentry course in 2019. After a two week trial the student is very happy with his progress and says that this is because he gets really good support in the classroom. Daniel has already achieved 4 unit standards in 10 days since 13 August!

Based on this and his steady attendance we are happy to enrol Daniel in Foundation 2 for the remainder of 2018 and continue to support his anxiety so he can achieve his education goals.

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.

FAITH THINKING

Working Effectively in Culturally Diverse Situations: Building your cultural awareness. Presented by Dr Sheryl Silzer, Wycliffe Bible Translators. Monday 8 October, 7:00-9:00pm, Tuesday 9 October, 7:00-9:00pm, Burns 7, University of Otago. Cost for this course is \$10.

Faith and Belief in New Zealand: Results of a recent study and its implications for faith communities. By Chris Clarke, Former CEO World Vision New Zealand; Advisor, Wilberforce Foundation. Wednesday, 10 October 2018 5:15 - 6:30pm, Archway 3 Lecture Theatre

For further information and to enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation/what-we-offer/otago692057.html. Please pay on the night.



GOOD HUMOUR / GOD HUMOUR.

I love hearing babies laugh. It's delightful when they laugh so heartily, they lose their balance and topple over... I defy anyone watching not to, at least, raise a smile. We live opposite a playground and it's lovely hearing the kids playing and laughing together. Although I must confess, when ever I heard our own kids laughing hysterically, my heart would sink as I hastened to investigate the cause of such mirth. Invariably, it involved some creative, if questionable 'scientific' experiment, requiring a major mop up, or

some death defying exploit like climbing out a dormer window of their second story bedroom so they could scramble down the roof. Not sure what was wrong with using the door! Or jumping off the garage roof in batman outfits complete with umbrellas to 'slow their descent!'

For our extended family, humour has always been a dominant feature, and 'cry-laughing' not uncommon. It so happens, we all laugh at the same sort of things and situations. At family gatherings, a word or phrase will trigger some hilarious family memory (often at some hapless member's expense) which sparks other memories, and so on. The littlest ones are a constant source of enjoyment as we watch them develop their own sense of humour. It's not that anyone's trying to be funny, or that difficult life situations don't take their toll, (we fall far short of being the model family) but gentle humour can be a buffer when things go wrong. This experience will be familiar to many.

A sense of humour is a complex attribute most human beings are blessed with in some form or other. A 'sense of the ridiculous' can turn frustrating situations into a source of wry humour.

However, one must keep in mind that not all are afflicted with this quirk, so it's wise to moderate one's response in such a situation! This I learned VERY early in life.

(Nor is it always good to sit beside someone in church or meetings with the same quirk.(No names). This can bring on 'hard to stifle' mirth and snorts at highly inappropriate moments!!).

Humour can inflame or defuse interpersonal, community, and political situations but used perceptively and wisely, can be a useful tool. It can be used to alert us to potentially damaging or dangerous situations when other methods fail. Dark humour can be a safety valve for people who work in high stress jobs eg First Responders...Fire and Ambulance, Police, Doctors, nurses etc.

Humour is 'big business' in the Entertainment Industry. Stand-Up, TV programmes, film, theatre all provide potential for making vast sums of money. Comedians strive to become household names. Some successful, others, not so much. It's a curious yet sad fact that a number of comedy personalities have met untimely deaths, even when madly successful.

A sad irony.

Humour cannot always penetrate the darkness of life experience.

For those who live on the margins, humour might be perceived as a luxury; for those living in war-torn countries where simply staying alive is a daily achievement, the human spirit, buoyed by good humour survives in spite of chaos. It never ceases to amaze and impress me when beleaguered people struggling to survive, manage to smile and laugh in spite of appalling conditions.

Sacred writings are not generally known for their hilarity or even wry humour. The story of Jonah providing dinner for a big fish could have potential for comedy (except if you're Jonah!!) The 'vomiting' scene could be quite hilarious(except if you're the big fish).

I think Jesus had a healthy sense of the ridiculous. His parables suggest this in his use of exaggeration eg..A Camel making its way through the eye of a needle.

I have read this expression... 'eye of a needle' explained as 'a small aperture' in the town wall through which small goods may be passed. This may be true but god forbid we interpret or understand these pearls of wisdom as the old testament authors or Jesus simply being funny! Nor do I believe the disciples didn't have some hilarious moments with Jesus while chatting around a fire at night . I bet they had some 'cry-laughing', falling about moments from time to time. Just because it isn't recorded doesn't mean it didn't happen.

Having said all that, like everything good, humour can have its negative side. Used thoughtlessly or with malicious intent, it can wound and

diminish .

However, humour used appropriately is life affirming, defusing tricky situations, breaking down barriers. Science tells us that when we laugh endorphins are released into the blood stream, reducing pain levels, reducing heart rate, lowering blood pressure, and elevating mood, to name a few benefits.

We, as a faith community possess 'the attributes' for good humour. I do not suggest we 'swing from the rafters', I mean a gentle lightness of spirit, making room for difference , respecting 'other', allowing good humour to filter through the life of the community, no one taking themselves too seriously. A medley of love, faith, hope, wisdom, and a generous dollop of pragmatism all...'spiced with humour, and laced with laughter, flavour of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zeal beyond belief.' (Shirley Murray)

A recipe for 'finding good in everyone, finding God in everyone'.

As human beings, it is inevitable we attribute to God human characteristics both good and bad, albeit of divine magnitude. If these attributions include a sense of humour, and why not, then God must surely have the capacity for a divinely colossal, cosmic comedic bent. Hmmm...that sounds like a heap of fun!!!

Trish Patrick.