



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

17th February 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24th February

9.30 am	Mornington	G Davis
10.00 am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

22-24 Feb		Otago Southland Synod – Camp Columba
27 Feb	12.30 pm	Mornington MWF meeting – Church Lounge
1 Mar	1.30 pm	WDP Ecumenical service – East Taieri Presbyterian
1 Mar	7.30 pm	WDP night of prayers – St Francis Xavier

NEWSLETTER INVITE - Every two months Methodist Mission Southern distributes a newsletter to people who've supported projects in the past. It includes some of the good news stories you see in your Parish Bulletin, an outline of some new projects as well some practical ways readers can help with those new projects.

If you would like to receive this newsletter regularly, all you need to do is send an email to rosen@mmsouth.org.nz If you'd like a printed copy rather than an email just let us know – you could phone the Main Office at Teviot Street - 466 4600 – Katrina will put you on the list to receive a print copy in the mail. Large print is also available.

BAKING AND FRUIT NEEDED FOR OTAGO COMBINED CHRISTIAN GROUPS TENT DURING ORIENTATION WEEK

The Otago Combined Christian Groups tent will be on the Union Lawn during Orientation week, from Mon 18th - Wed 20th February. We would greatly appreciate home baking (in plastic ice cream containers) and fruit (in cardboard boxes) to distribute to students during Orientation week. Donations of baking and fruit can be delivered to the Upper Room Chaplaincy office, eastern end of the Mezzanine floor in the University Union building, from 9am Monday 18th February, or directly to the CCG tent during the week. Inquiries: Greg Hughson, University Chaplain greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Our first Meeting of the year will take place on the 27th February at 12.30 p.m. (please note the time) in the Church Lounge/Sunday School. As we will be starting with a luncheon please bring along a plate of food to share. The Guest Speaker Mr Colin Morrison will join us at 2 p.m. to tell us about his work as Prison Chaplain at Otago Corrections Facility. Of the many jobs he has had, he says this is the "most satisfying". He undertook theological training at Laidlaw College & later graduated with a Master of Ministry degree from the University of Otago. Please remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

OTAGO SOUTHLAND SYNOD 22-24 February 2019 at Camp Columba (Pukerau, just before Gore). Everyone welcome - there will be some Church business as well as educational/thought-provoking sessions. We start late Friday afternoon and finish with an early lunch on Sunday. \$50 per person for the whole weekend (as it's subsidised by Synod). Dorm sharing - bring your own bedding - or you can stay in Gore (at your own cost). We'd prefer people to come for the whole time but day visitors are welcome at \$20 per person.

Please let Rachael know by 10 Feb if you are wanting to come (email to rmasterton@actrix.co.nz or phone 4764867). Car pooling will be organised.

A NIGHT OF PRAYERS and fellowship for World Day of Prayer to be held at St Francis Xavier on Friday 1st March at 7.30 pm. All welcome to come along on the night.

RELATIVELY NEW MEMBERS at Mornington are **Rex and Barbara Weavers**, and they bring with them a rich record of service at various churches, most recently Caversham Presbyterian. Rex and Barbara own to a monthly responsibility of leading the monthly service at the **Radius Fulton Rest Home** in Hillside Road, and they like to invite Mornington Church people to swell the numbers and boost the singing.

Rex says they began this ministry in 1991 and have continued it since on the 1st Sunday of the month. He says there is a strong preference among the residents for the old favourites but the demand for the service is as strong as ever, despite occasional competition from the big screen tv in the common room and normal noises associated with life in a rest home. Good wishes to Barbara and Rex (Photo) as they continue a valued service to the community.





STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Corrections Literacy & Numeracy: December was a good month with many Intensive Literacy and Numeracy (ILN) students achieving their goals and others making good progress. One ILN student has been enjoying his learning so much that when a programme clash became apparent he asked for a timetable change to ensure he could continue his learning in ILN. One student surprised himself by achieving the required level for his reading and was exceptionally happy as he could pursue his learning towards a career pathway. Many of the students, particularly those due for release over the Christmas break, worked hard to achieve the maximum possible before they lose the opportunity.

Client Support Worker A man in his mid-50s presented at the office looking for help to focus some direction in his life. Ronald's health wasn't good and he was waiting for a long needed operation, making it impossible to work and therefore difficult to pay the mortgage. Ronald felt, due to his age, he didn't have many options to increase his income however expressed an interest in study. He had an idea that he wanted to study towards something that would help pay the bills, be something he would enjoy and at the same time utilise the land he lived on.

Ronald said that while this all sounded good in his head, putting this into action was daunting. He said he was also easily distracted by other people's problems and would put them before himself. Ronald wanted help to put his ideas into action and support to stay focused – so this was

Ronald's need for service – 'To be in study that fits my needs and utilises my personal resources'.

Ronald had 3 areas he was interested in. After discussing each and having time to think about what would work for him, Ronald decided to go with Beekeeping. While working with Ronald there was a time he was 'side-tracked' by family issues, however with support and focus Ronald is enrolled and is attending the Bee Keeping course. He is thoroughly enjoying this and is looking forward to setting up his own hive on his property. Ronald was happy to end his need for service

Client Support Worker *Little Citizens* The end of the year is often a stressful time for families, and last year was no exception. MMSouthern's client support worker based at Little Citizens was able to connect with and support centre whānau who were experiencing relationship breakdowns, financial pressures and engaging with the legal and care & protection systems. Parents said that they felt better after talking with me; having a listening ear and non-judgemental support helped them to process their circumstances and make choices about their way forward.

Parents told me that they felt comfortable asking for, seeing and talking with me due to our existing relationship. This made it easier for them to both ask for and accept 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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO BE HELD**



Friday 1st March 2019
OAK LOUNGE EAST TAIERI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

This worldwide movement of informed prayer involves people from 170 countries also many denominations, who together observe a common day of prayer each year.

Through World Day of Prayer:
We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

This year, our service is from Slovenia which is located in Central Europe and is one of the smallest countries in that region.

The theme is:

COME – EVERYTHING IS READY

Join us, to enjoy this happy time, with stories & singing from SLOVENIA.

Say, Good Morning! To your friend or neighbor

In Slovenian: DOBER DAN!

ALL WELCOME. Followed by afternoon tea.



The Horizontal Sacred – The Theology of Mary Oliver's Poems

One month ago the poet Mary Oliver died, I had 'discovered' her in the last couple of years and found her poetry moving and enlightening and though without being overtly religious I found her poems theologically profound. They sneak in here and there into my services, I will use one this morning at Mosgiel.

Poetry is a natural companion to liturgy, indispensable to it. The same is true for theology, the truths of theology aren't the objective

verifiable truths of the laboratory, they are – as Wittgenstein said – poetic. A construction of words to draw one towards meaning.

Scripture begins and ends with poetry and contains swaths and snatches of it throughout its vast remainder. The rites of Christian worship across the centuries have endured in part because they are poetry in the mouth, poetry in the ear, poetry to live by.

Accomplished poets with theological acumen have always helped to sustain the piety of the faithful: Ephrem the Syrian, Hildegard of Bingen, Dante Alighieri, George Herbert, Christina Rossetti, T. S. Eliot, Gerard Manley Hopkins—to name only a few.

Debra Dean Murphy in her essay on Oliver’s poetry writes that our present age is in sore need of poetry. We live in a culture of propositions and prose, of dry cut facts, of alternative truths and fake news. Words bind us instead of liberating us.

Propositional speech and expository writing have always been limited in their power to move and convince, which is why the best orators and authors throughout history have won over their audiences with poetic speech—language rife with image, metaphor, ambiguity, and lyricism and uninterested in didacticism and moralizing. For Christians who recognize the dreariness of staking one’s life solely on a list of propositions to be assented to, poetry turns out to be in Oliver’s words *“like fires for the cold, ropes let down to the lost, something as necessary as bread in the pockets of the hungry.”*

Oliver had no professed religion but Christian imagery emerges in some of her later work. She was a mystic of the natural world. Debra Dean Murphy identifies three reasons Christians should seek nurture in her work.

First, her way of regarding the created order can help inform a deeply theological vision of the world. A poem is a kind of dwelling place—intimate and durable—and Oliver constructs poems that invite us to dwell in other habitations more thoughtfully, more honorably, with more integrity and intentionality than we might otherwise.

Second, Oliver's poetry witnesses to a deep love of neighbour. She writes mostly about the neighbourhoods of forests and fields, ponds and seashores, but some of her most poignant poems are about the work—and the giftedness—of seeking the well-being of others.

Finally, Oliver's relative lack of theological sophistication can be surprisingly compelling. Although many of her recent poems employ a more explicit Christian vocabulary, they do so with a naïveté and wonder that challenge the cynicism of our times. It turns out that accessibility in the poems of Mary Oliver can lead to encounters for the argument-weary that are like fire, like ropes, like necessary bread. In celebration of her life and giftedness I conclude with her poem

The Summer Day

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean-

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

David Poultney