

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)



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|                               |                    |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
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| <b>Parish Stewards</b>        | Mrs Jan Stewart    | 473 9141   |
|                               | Ross Merrett       | 489 7663   |
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| <b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b> | Elaine Merrett     | 489 7663   |
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## PARISH BULLETIN

25 June 2023

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2 July 2023

|          |            |            |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 09:30 am | Mornington | D Poultney |
| 10:00 am | Mosgiel    | E Merrett  |
| 11:00 am | Glenaven   | D Poultney |

## **MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Annual General Meeting of the Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June in the Mornington Methodist Church Lounge at 2pm.

Please send nominations for positions of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to Andrea Mosley on [mosleyrehab@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mosleyrehab@xtra.co.nz) or phone 021572811.

All are invited to attend. The meeting will be followed by a social afternoon tea.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE METHODIST PUBLISHING BOARD ON THE FUTURE OF TOUCHSTONE**

Kia ora

Over recent months we have been assessing the costs associated with producing Touchstone as increased printing and distribution costs, combined with lower returns on investments, have impacted our ability to continue sending papers free-of-charge. We proposed introducing a subscription model and had hoped that would enable us to continue printing the paper, however fewer than 2000 people / parishes committed to paying for the publication and so it has proven to be no longer viable for us to publish. The Methodist Publishing Board this week reached the following decision:

**“That printing and posting Touchstone is discontinued immediately. From July, Touchstone will be available via the online blog style format that is currently accessible from the MCNZ website. In addition, a pared-back version of the monthly publication will be created as an A4 PDF (10 pages / 20-sides). This PDF attachment will be emailed to all contacts on the Connexional Office database, and those contacts on the dedicated Touchstone distribution list, so that parish contacts can print off the pages and distribute to those parishioners and readers**

who prefer a printed copy and / or do not have access to a digital forum.

**The creation and dispatch of two, monthly versions of Touchstone will be trialled until December 2023, when the MPB will review the decision. It is envisaged that many readers may transition to the standard blog style online format over the coming months.”**

Although we recognise this decision will be disappointing to those members of the Connexion who responded favourably to receiving copies of Touchstone for a subscription fee, we trust that the option of an attached PDF will enable those that prefer a print version of Touchstone to continue to share in the news, views and life of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi nui

**Pauline McKay**

**Acting Convenor Methodist Publishing Board**



Adam, Eve and their descendents

Before literacy was common the stories in the Bible were sometimes portrayed as pictures in Churches. As an example, the Armenian Cathedral in Isafahan, Iran, has all its walls and ceiling covered with paintings (photo below). In this tradition, the Leaders Meeting at Mornington recently accepted three art works as a gift from the Gibson family illustrating Adam, Eve and their descendents. They were painted by Waikouati artist Peter Gregory and the first two paintings were displayed in a tongue-in-cheek style 6000<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Adam and Eve at the Mornington

Church on Thursday 26 October 2000 with the minister, the Rev Dr Geoff King, officiating. The Eve painting was created first in 1994 and the Adam painting was made especially for the event in 2000. The third painting of Adam and Eve with future generations was created, with egg tempera, for Colin and Jeanette and given at Christmas 2003 with love from Peter, Laura, Woostle and Bonzie. in The ODT report on 27.10.20 recorded that Emeritus Professor Colin Gibson noted that the Bible did not record that any marriage ceremony ever took place between Adam and Eve and, as presumably their “later numerous children were all conceived out of wedlock,” he joked that steps were taken at the function to “posthumously legitimize their relationship.” The minister noted that humour played a significant part in the life of the parish. It was noted that the distinguished 17<sup>th</sup> century Irish biblical scholar Archbishop James Ussher calculated that Adam and Eve were created on October 26, 4000BC. Professor Gibson said that there was no intention of making Archbishop Ussher a “laughing stock,” although science had since shown the first humans existed much earlier than 6000 years ago. He said humour was “a very important vehicle for teaching” about Adam and Eve and other stories. The three paintings will be hung on the wall at the back of the church next to the hanging tapestry.

Peter Gregory said that a trip to the Otago Museum brought him face to face with Pacific Island sculptures which reminded him of Adam and Eve. The figures seemed to have a real grasp of the pain and joy of life and thoughts about death and what might lie after it. There was a fragility—they could easily have been wiped out—but also a feeling of strength, being the first parents that led to many generations. He said, “There was a lot of material in the Pacific Island section that spoke to me of grappling with the light and dark sides of life, and the mystery of birth and death. There was a

directness about the work that go to essence of things better than the arty stuff you see in art galleries.” He said, “I am interested in the idea of an artist being like an Old Testament prophet who looks at society as it is, and thinks about where it’s going and where it’s come from and comments about it. There’s a tension in all this because of the danger of the artist becoming a political cartoonist or graffiti-ist or someone doing slogan when the artist’s job is actually to paint pictures.”

At the Leader’s meeting thanks were expressed to the Gibson family for their kind gifts.

Art can have many interpretations. One is that that we are all members of one human family and as family members, even those we may look different from one another in the colour of our skin, we should treat one another with kindness and love.

Bruce Spittle

1. Armenian cathedral, Isfahan Iran

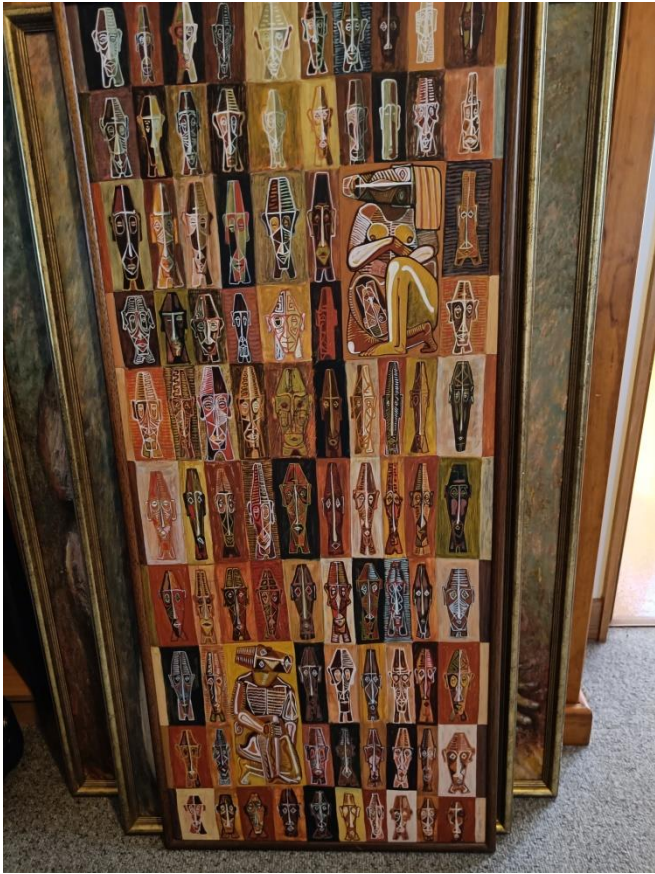




2. Rev Dr Geoff King with Adam and Eve 2020

3. Peter Gregory, 1994, with Eve.





4. Adam and Eve with future generations.