



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| Presbyter: | Rev. Siosifa Pole | 455 2923 |
| Parish Stewards: | Dr George Davis | 453 6540 |
| | Dr Richard Cannon | 477 5030 |
| | Mrs Fay Richardson | 489 5485 |
| Tongan Steward: | Mr Palanite Taungapeau | 456 3144 |
| Parish Office: | Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz | 466 4600 |
| | Sarah: sarahc@dmm.org.nz | |

PARISH BULLETIN

23rd October 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER 2011

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| 9.30am | Mornington | Comb. Wesley |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | Comb. Wesley |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | Comb. Wesley |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | K. Russell |
| 1.00pm | St Kilda | TBA |
| 4.00pm | Broad Bay | Comb. Wesley |

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE

There will be a combined service for the whole parish on the 30th of October at Wesley Methodist Church, Hillside Road. The service will start at 10am and Rev. Ken Russell will conduct this service. Those who do not have transport make sure that you contact those who have transport to pick you up. We need a good turn out to this service for that is the wish of the parish in the last parish review. We are all looking forward for a good fellowship of the Methodist people of Dunedin.

Mornington Toy & Games Library Annual Truffles Fundraiser

Christmas is looming and it is time to start thinking about stocking your freezer and shelves for those unexpected guests and the many end-of-year "bring-a-plate" events. These yummy truffles are \$5.00 a dozen, and the funds go to supporting the Mornington Toy and Games Library. If you are interested in placing an order, please see Rebecca Neaves after church - orders will be delivered on Sunday, October 30th. Thanks to everyone for their ongoing support over the years.

MORNINGTON LEADERS MEETING - Tuesday 25th October, 7.30pm.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT - Sunday 30th October, 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Cello, Piano, Flute Items. Cost \$2.00. All welcome.

EXPLORERS GROUP -Meets on Sunday October 30th, at 4-30 PM in the Mornington Church Lounge. All welcome.

HOLIDAY AND CONFERENCE

Your presbyter will have a one week holiday from the 25th of October to the 1st of November. When I come back from my holiday I will go to our Conference on the 3rd to the 9th of November in Auckland. While I am away three of our parish stewards will take responsible for the administration of the parish.

PARISH STEWARD

Fay Richardson will be standing down as Parish Steward at the next Parish Council Meeting on 23 November, after four years valuable service in this capacity. The Parish Council has received one nomination for appointment as Parish Steward. Any further nominations should be directed to a Parish Steward or to Siosifa Pole prior to the Parish Council Meeting on 23 November.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Patrick Boyes who celebrates a birthday on 29th October.



Reason^{ugby} **W**ith^{orld} **C**ompassion^{up}

I promise you, the above is the only nod in the direction of the feeding frenzy to which we have been subjected over the past four years. Except to offer the reminder that our hosting of the RWC was much as anything promoted on the basis of the financial return this country would receive.

Of infinitely greater significance, in the long-term, has been the extraordinary expression of anger, world-wide, over the perceived mismanagement and greed of the international banking system. Banks that were bailed out during the financial crisis of 2009 are accused of

continuing to act selfishly, and irresponsibly, while literally millions struggle to make ends meet.

Protests have taken place all over the world – the Octagon was occupied for a time. A modest turnout here in Dunedin, but tens of thousands in Greece, for example, which is in any case in a state of financial chaos. If the protesters lacked a cohesive goal or message, as their critics point out, the protests did address a number of important societal issues, such as the growing gap between the rich and the poor. Over the last 30 years, the income gap between the top one per cent (or more accurately, the top 0.1 per cent) and the rest of us has increased substantially.

'Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' That's how Jesus Christ prefaced a story about a man who spent his life building up a nest egg, only to die the very night he decided to upgrade his barns and retire. Are those who are carefully saving for their retirement like the "rich fool" of the parable?

The church has traditionally taught that avarice is a deadly sin. But attitudes today towards greed are no longer so clear cut. There are economists who would say that greed is an appropriate, even essential, ingredient of modern capitalism, and that the public good is promoted by people being selfish. So greed becomes a virtue! Have we lost our bearings by talking so much about achievement or success? We celebrate the quest for material abundance, and words such as thrift, prudence and moderation become quaint and old fashioned.

Those who watch our spending patterns suggest that people are focusing more and more on themselves. As our riches have grown, our outlook has narrowed. This may suggest that we will find it easier to be generous when giving comes with a financial benefit. What, for example, will be the long-term effect of this Government's decision to scrap the gift tax? Will we use the change to become more supportive of charitable work?

Sadly, no, since people seem less concerned with the wider world. If greed can be defined as taking more than our fair share, let's remember that a child born in New Zealand will probably consume the same as 30 or so children born in developing countries.

Comments made by an economist from among our cousins across the Tasman can be applied with some accuracy, I believe, to us on this side. He says that [our] self-orientation is proof of growing avarice. A dwindling interest in the outside world, the growing importance of money and unprecedented acquisitiveness all point to a greedier populace in his view.

"There is no doubt Australians [read Kiwis] are much more greedy than we used to be, but with less justification than ever because we are wealthier than ever,"

People may be involved in voluntary organisations, we may invite our neighbours over for a barbecue, but are we as concerned with broad issues such as the environment, public education and health services?

Who is the rich fool of whom Jesus was speaking?

Donald Phillipps

FROM LAST SUNDAY'S EXPLORERS SERVICE

"My mother thought that the whole history of the Christian Church was pretty shocking, and she liked to think that this was partly why she had left the vicarage and my father, but really it was not that at all, but that she had grown bored and met someone else and preferred to rove about the world with him.

Of course from one point of view she was right about the Church, which grew so far almost at once from anything that can have been intended, and became so blood-stained and persecuting, and cruel and war-like, and made small and trivial things so important, and tried to exclude everything not done in a certain way and by certain people, and stamped out heresies with such cruelty and rage.

And this failure of the Christian Church, of every branch of it in every country, is one of the saddest things that has happened in all the world.

But it is what happens when a magnificent idea has to be worked out by human beings who do not understand much of it, but interpret it in their own way and think they are guided by God whom they have not yet grasped.

And yet they had grasped something, so that the Church has always had great magnificence and courage, and people have died for it in agony—which is supposed to balance all the other people who have had to die in agony because they did not accept it—and it has flowered up in learning and culture and beauty and art, to set against its darkness and incivility and obscurantism and barbarity and nonsense.

And it has produced saints and martyrs and kindness and goodness—though these have also occurred freely outside it—and it is a wonderful and most extraordinary pageant of contradictions, and I, at least, want to be inside it, though it is foolishness to most of my friends."

This quotation from Rose Macauley's *"The Towers of Trebizond"* was read by Jeanette Gibson, and made an impression on those who heard it.

