



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

20th November 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2011

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| 9.30am | Mornington | S Pole |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | S Ungemuth |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | S Pole |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | S Ungemuth |
| 1.00pm | St Kilda | TBA |
| 6.00pm | Broad Bay | No Service |

GOLDEN STITCHES - Celebrating 50 years of the Otago Embroiderers Guild, the Early Settlers Museum is holding an exhibition of the finest craft work by members of the Guild. Among the exhibits are Jeanette Gibson's stunningly beautiful set of stoles made for the Reverend Craig Forbes, based on New Zealand hymn texts, and magnificently mounted by the Settlers Museum staff. Bishop Penny Jamieson's rainbow robes for her installation as the first woman diocesan Anglican bishop in the world are also on show. Admission is free: hours 1-4pm, in the old Bus Station wing of the Museum. Don't miss this wonderful display.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - A Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 23 November 2011 at Mosgiel Methodist Church.

EXPLORERS GROUP - Meets for the final time for 2011 at 5-30pm on Sunday 27th for a potluck tea at the home of Hilda and Greg Hughson, 10 Corstorphine Rd. Thank you Hilda and Greg for offering this hospitality.

BULLETIN NOTICES FOR 27 NOVEMBER

Sarah Campbell will be finishing at the Mission on Friday 18th November and heading overseas until mid-April 2012. Her replacement for this time will be Nat Voight. Nat does not start until Monday 28th November. As there will be a one week gap with no Administrator it would be appreciated if all notices for the Bulletin and materials for Orders of Service can be into the Administration Office by **9.00am on Thursday 24th November**. Notices can still be emailed to sarahc@dmm.org.nz or by phone to 4664600. Thank you.

WAKA AMA - For those who would like a paddle in a double hulled canoe Sunday 27 Nov 10:30a.m. start at the Waka Ama Club by the Yacht Club Harbour Basin. If coming please ensure that you have appropriate clothing, such as polyprop tops and leggings and maybe aqua socks or jandals. No street footwear in the waka and have a change of clothes. Very weather dependent - will cancel if the conditions are not suitable. Please advise Cam Weston if interested in having a paddle. Life jackets will be available.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Darcy Pitts who celebrates a Birthday on 22nd November.

THANK YOU - I would like to thank you all who went to the workshop that led by Nigel Hanscamp in Invercargill. I do hope that the learning that we gather from this workshop will help us in our involvement in the ministry of our local congregation.

GENESIS - CUNNING PLANS AND SNEAKY TRICKS.

Ginny Kitchingman's latest production of that name was presented last Sunday by YOUTH @ MORNINGTON (Y&M). It was a remarkably frank critique of the middle chapters of Genesis where the duplicity and sordidness of "God's Chosen people" is described in graphic detail. This was not the stuff of your average Sunday morning service, but [Y@M](#) carried it through with honesty, candour and occasional humour. Pictures show the cast of 11; Jacob (David Cannon) deceives his blind father Isaac (Samuel Jones) by covering his arms with hairy skins to usurp his brother Esau's birthright; Jenna Boyes proudly displays her embroidery panel, one of many worked by the [Y@M](#) group and sewn into cushions.





In Luke 10:25–29 the lawyer asks Jesus: "*Who is my neighbour?*" whereupon Jesus replies with the confronting story of a despised Samaritan offering "Christian" help. This instruction to love-thy-neighbour-even-or-especially-when-s/he-is-not-to-your-liking is the antithesis of the economic rationalism that is largely responsible for the world's now parlous economic state.

If I might expand a little

The New Zealand election approaches - actually, it's pretty much upon us: as you read this there is less than a week before voting is completed.

Will the Nats sleepwalk to victory? Will Labour cobble together a ragtag, tail-wag-the-dog, coalition? Will the Greens cosy up to the right in order to taste the inside of ministerial limousines? Will Winston return, will ACT remain? Will MMP get the boot?

Does anybody really care?

At the time of writing the election seems more like a middle-of-the-road soap opera – Close to Home perhaps – than *the* civic discussion at a critical moment in our economic, social, and environmental future.

Voter turnout is predicted to be lower than ever this election.

Yet, we can say now with some authority that the international situation is not improving; that the Rugby World Cup cost NZ more than it earned us (National Business Review); and that the Christchurch rebuild (which, remember is not about creating new capacity for the country, but simply returning capacity that was) won't take off until the end of 2012 if not even later. Many are forecasting a further credit downgrade for NZ early next year, which will lead to higher interest rates and further business failure with its attendant unemployment.

We can also say (because there are Nobel-prize winning economists shouting this from the pages of the New York Times) that unfettered capitalism has failed, *even on its own terms*. And we can see the beginnings of new movements rising up to demand fairness; the right to economic, social, and intergenerational/environmental, **justice**.

What a shame then that we are having our election now, and not in six months, when the debate will be that much more advanced!

The Social Darwinism – now much disproved – that put us in competition with each other over the last 30 years has rent the fabric of our society. We are not further ahead as individuals, whanau, or as a nation, for suddenly transforming ourselves into consumers above all else.

Michael Sandel has written of inequality that: *It isn't just that it is unfair to those at the bottom; it's that too great a gap between the haves and the have-nots hollows out civic life. It diminishes the possibility that we can share and live a common life, sufficient to foster shared values, sufficient to the kind of life and the kind of citizenship wherein we can deliberate about common purposes and ends.*

Hardly surprising then that one of the first casualties of unrestricted capitalism is democracy itself. Why vote if there is nothing that is shared; if there is no public square (or public goods) left? You might find the election distasteful, disappointing, underwhelming or frustrating, it may even feel like a waste of time. You would not be alone.

Yet this is a moment to act as the Good Samaritan. The right thing isn't always fun. Voting, and encouraging others (regardless of their leanings) to vote is an act of service for our community.

On Saturday 26th November, in just 6 days' time, you have the opportunity to participate, to reverse the damage caused by inequality; to be counted. Please do so.

Laura Black