



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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

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## PARISH BULLETIN

29<sup>th</sup> July 2012

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012

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

### EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets on Sunday July 29th, in the Mornington Church Lounge at 4-30pm.  
All interested people welcome to join us.

### OTAGO/SOUTHLAND DISTRICT SYNOD MEETING

The synod will be meeting in Invercargill on Friday 3 August 7-9pm and Saturday 4 August 9.30am – 2.30pm. Transport and accommodation can be shared. For more information please contact either Rachael Masterton [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz) phone 476 4867 or Jenny Winter [mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz](mailto:mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz) phone 478 0491.

### THANK YOU

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to express our sincere thanks to the parish for your support after one year of our ministry here. The review of my ministry on Tuesday evening was a testament to the strong partnership that we both have in the ministry of this parish. My wish and prayer that we will continue on this journey until the time God wants us to continue on our ministry to another place.

## PRAYERFUL

It is in prayer that we communicate with God and also connect with our neighbours here on earth. Please continue to uphold those who are sick, frail, lonely, and suffering in your prayers. We have a lot of sick people in the parish and they need our support through our prayers.

**NEW PACIFIC FAMILY** - Mornington has been pleased to welcome FA'AFO (Pat) and her three boys from Papua New Guinea. Fa has been with us for several months, coming to Otago University to pursue her Ph D course in Linguistics. Now she is joined by her three fine sons, and as a family they will be here in Dunedin for 3 – 4 years. The boys are now attending Otago Boys H.S. and Kavanagh College. The family come from the village of Vulaa in Central Province, 2hrs drive east from Port Moresby. They come from a family with a long United Church tradition - with parents and grandparents serving as United Church ministers. They are very proud of that tradition. Fa says she and the boys are the fellowship and warmth of the Mornington folk, and it's good to see the boys joining in the [Y@M](#) group. WELCOME. WELCOME. Their home in Dunedin is 48b Manor Place and their phone is 021 02552142. Photo left to right, Matthew, Manu, Fa'afo and Bartimaeus.



### **Story from the Mission**

Careers Festival – as part of the annual Otago Careers festival, we ran a workshop in conjunction with Pam Joan from Career Services called, 'Got the interview, now win the job.' Jan and Gail were instrumental in putting this workshop together with Pam, using several of our students to be involved as helpers. We transported people to ACL from Work and Income and had several people from other training organisations come along. The feedback from our students was that they really valued the experience, and feedback from other participants was that it was very worthwhile. The workshop focussed on personal presentation on a budget, and how to act and answer 'tough' questions in the interview.



## OLD NEW WORLD

Just over a week ago, on a grey Saturday, a new, exciting, and potentially significant Mission venture was inaugurated. Dave Cull, the Dunedin Mayor, was there to open, or re-open, the former Forbury School, as a site for a very different sort of pre-school centre. While maintaining the previous purpose of that piece of land as a place where learning takes place, it now becomes a much more wide-ranging enterprise.

It will be a place where the littlies are seen in a holistic way – there will continue to be the emphasis on activities that stretch the young, developing minds, but there will be an almost equal emphasis on improving their social skills and caring for their physical needs. This latter aspect reflects the present Government's concern that healthy growth requires a certain degree of oversight and, even, discipline.

All this is fairly far removed from the Mission's beginnings in child care. The Dunedin Citizens Day Nursery grew out of the Depression, in 1930 – the idea of a group of half a dozen Dunedin women. It started in Moray Place under the care of a permanent nurse and some voluntary help, and catered for fifty children. Managed by the City Council for over twenty years it then taken over, at the Council's request, by the Mission in 1954. The Centre moved to the lower floor of Trinity Church in 1961, and then to Wesley Church Hall in 1967. Additional property was acquired over the next twenty years, and a substantial operation has been maintained since that time on that same site.

Now all this has changed, and the Parish can be very sure that the Mission, under Laura Black, of which and of whom it has every reason to be proud, is in the forefront, nationally, of child-care services. And it was clearly evident, on that Saturday, that the people of South Dunedin are delighted, and even relieved, to have the former school buildings continuing to serve the community.

This little bit of Mission history was recalled for a purpose. We live in a city which is, rightly, proud of its past – architecturally we are surrounded by memories of Dunedin's prosperous days, in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Once a week, for example, Gordon Parry revives those days as he walks down *Memory Lane*.

Nevertheless, I suggest we read, and wrestle with, what a very important English historian, Sir Lewis Namier, once wrote: 'One would expect people to remember the past and imagine the future, but in fact they imagine the past and remember the future.'

Let me illustrate the truth of this with another bit of Mission history. From the 1930's quite the most important activity was the care of the elderly. Many who read this will think affectionately of the Company Bay Home and of Wesley Manor. In the 1930's in this country those aged over 45 comprised about 10-12% of the total population. Now one person in eight is over 65.

When you think of that past, and of the Mission's care for the elderly, do you remember that people setting. The numbers were fewer, and the needy elderly less obvious. The Mission, rightly, believed they had a responsibility of care. The past we want to remember is that sense of humanity, of Christian responsibility for one's neighbour. But that sort of thinking is what, I suggest, Namier would call 'imagining'.

That world no longer exists. It is, surely, illogical and impractical to try to bring that past into the future – that's what is meant by 'remembering the future.' It surely has to be questioned whether Christian social service agencies are in a position to meet the accommodation needs of the half million people in New Zealand aged over 70. Or are there other priorities?

We are, as Christians, the people of a book – we share that characteristic with those of the Judaic and Islamic faith, among others. As much as anything, however, I fear those who read nothing else than their scriptures - whose minds are shut to the lessons the present world is teaching them. For, to me, that suggests that their God is imprisoned in the printed word, in the past - and is not speaking to them out of today.

We may, perhaps, make more of this phrase than we should, but from time to time, at least, we should recall Jesus, teaching the crowds and saying: "You have heard what Moses said ..... But I say to you....!" In a way, those two phrases sum it all up – our very future depends on our imagining, not remembering, what the Word, the living Jesus Christ, will say to us.

**Donald Phillipps**