



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

9th SEPTEMBER 2012

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2012

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole (AGM)
9.30 am	Mosgiel	Y@M
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Watson
11.00 am	Wesley	Y@M
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
4.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Today 2.30pm at Mornington Methodist Church. Featuring Rare Byrds, medieval group. Singing and piano items. Cost \$2.00.



MOSGIEL MID WEEK SERVICE

Wednesday 19 September at 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.

MOSGIEL CHURCH

Can all reports please be in by 16th September so they can be compiled by Elaine in time for our Church AGM on Sunday 23rd September which is also our Spring Flower Service.

MOSGIEL PLEASE NOTE:

Mid week services for September & October will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

CHANGING OF DATES FOR WESLEY LEADERS MEETING - Wesley Leaders Meeting will reschedule its meeting from the Tuesday the 11th September to 18th of September at the church, 10.30am. This is due to my travel to Tonga to be with Naomi and her family in her sister's funeral.

SOLOMON, SHEBA AND THE ROCK CHURCHES OF ETHIOPIA

The Parish Open Education programme offers on Wednesday 19 September a fascinating insight into a branch of the Christian Church we know little about. The Ethiopian Christian Church claims an ancestry older than the time of Christ. The son of Solomon and Sheba is said to have brought it into being and it claims both Jewish and Christian ancestry. Its churches hewn out of solid rock are marvels, brilliantly shown in a BBC film on one of the Lost Kingdoms of Africa. The session led by Colin Gibson begins at 7.30pm (\$5), and is preceded by the usual excellent meal catered by Judy Russell (\$15). Book your place at the table by ringing 455 3727 or signing in at Mornington.

PRAYER REQUEST

Our family is in a period of mourning for the death of Naomi's youngest sister 'Ana in Tonga. Naomi and Kakala are on their way to Tonga and I will follow them next week but we need your prayer during this sad time. I thank Rev. Ken Russell for his visit and prayerful support before Naomi and Kakala departed to Auckland.



THE 110th ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE METHODIST FOREIGN MISSION was a handy date for the women of the Dunedin Parish Womens Fellowships to throw a VICTORIAN party at Mornington Church last Saturday. It was a riot, really, a glorious excuse to exhibit some good old patriotism, nostalgia, and costuming, not to mention some good healthy advocacy for women's votes. A handful of men did their best to oppose the shameful hussies with their banners, but made little impression on the militant women. A goodly crowd from the Parish turned up and some very impressive Victorians strutted their stuff. Margaret Connor did a huge job running the party, and the Suffragettes, Sally Weston, Earleen Owens and Fay Richardson made their presence heard. More photos next Sunday.



Story from the Mission

We have a student who sold up everything to move out of earthquake ravaged Christchurch leaving behind her own gardening business. She is focussed on upskilling to return to the workforce. This includes upskilling in computing, freshening her retail and customer service skills, and creating a targeted CV. The work she did with one of the tutors on creating her targeted CV showcased her skills and really gave her a confidence boost. In addition to her studies with us, she has been volunteering her services at the Otago Multiple Sclerosis Society. With confidence, skills and targeted CV, she has secured an interview for a position in a local jewellery store.

METHODIST PUBLIC ISSUES:

ASSET SALES, THE PRICE OF POWER, THE VALUE OF WATER

The Prime Minister says water cannot be owned but government allocates the right to use water. Those who have a water allocation effectively own the water they take and use.

If water is part of property, including Māori property, are power companies entitled to have water for free? Asset sales are bringing up concerns about keeping State Assets, Māori interests in water, and the price of power.

Asset Sales will mean there will be increased hardship for families because the price of electricity will go up. The main purpose of power companies is to generate profit.

Higher energy prices will mean:

- More hardship for Pasifika families
- More pressures on whanau with low incomes
- Illness from cold, damp houses
- Food prices will go up
- Increase in rates from higher power costs for Councils
- Inequality will increase between those who can afford power and those who cannot.

There is more information on:

www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network.

Contact: betsan@publicquestions.org.nz

SOLUTIONS TO CHILD POVERTY

The Families Commission have produced a 'Solutions to Child Poverty' paper as an opportunity for consultation. The Children's Commission set out some of the ways we can recognize hardship – no shoes, going without meals, illnesses of poverty such as rheumatic fever asthma and respiratory diseases, and more vulnerability to family violence.

Solutions to Poverty include reducing the number of children in poverty from 275,000 children to 160,000. The Commission has both short term and long term goals. They make proposals for income support, child support and housing. Housing is a big one, with needs for supportive community housing and affordable rents. What would you add to the priorities for reducing child poverty?

Church Leaders urge government to act on 'Solutions to Poverty' recommendations.

Could you host a discussion about your ideas and examples of solutions to Child Poverty in your parish? We have until October 12th to feed into the Families Commission report. Please send your contributions to Betsan: betsan@publicquestions.org.nz

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED FOR TEENAGES

Can you relate to teenagers and think you could make a difference?

Right now we need more foster carers who can open their homes to teenagers and stick with them when things get tough. These teens have a range of needs, as a result of being let down in the past, but with the right love and care have unlimited potential.

You would make a great foster carer for a teenager if you can set boundaries, face the challenges, work as part of a team and stand by them through thick and thin - while supporting them toward a positive future.

There are all sorts of ways that you could offer care and help a teenager get back on track - from offering a night or weekend to longer term care.

Our team will support you to understand and manage the challenges and be there with you, to celebrate the successes! Our foster carers are trained, approved and receive financial support.

You could be just who we are looking for!

For more information about becoming a child, youth and family foster parent please contact:

Rose Scott on (03) 955 3438 or 029 6501246 or toll free on 0508 FAMILY (0508 326459) or email rose.scott016@cyf.govt.nz



It is the time of year for Annual General Meetings. The annual meeting of our Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Board will be held at 2.00pm this coming Thursday 13 September in Puna Kawa (The Council Room) Level 3, Block F, Otago Polytechnic. You are warmly invited to attend, but if you can't come, here below are some portions of the report I will be presenting. If you want my full annual report let me know.

It has been another very full and satisfying year, my thirteenth year in the role of University Chaplain. I continue to give thanks to God for the privilege of serving in this largely secular context. There are endless opportunities each day to offer pastoral care and spiritual support to Otago University students and staff, in a very wide range of situations.

Throughout the last 12 months I have continued my involvement with the Dunedin Inner City Ministers Association, the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship Area Support Group and as a contact person for the Otago University Ethical Behaviour network.

Regular communication has been ongoing with students, staff, Church leaders and community groups via e mail and facebook. I continue to receive referrals from the international office, University flats management, student health, the Pacific Islands centre, University staff, Church leaders and elsewhere.

In early November 2011 I attended the annual Methodist Conference in Auckland and presented a report on the World Council of Churches Peace Conference which I attended in Jamaica during May 2011, and a report on Tertiary Chaplaincy nationally.

At the Aotearoa NZ Tertiary Chaplaincy AGM held at Massey University in Palmerston Nth last November, I completed my six year term of service as Chairperson of ANZTCA.

February 2012 was busy preparing for orientation. Once again I supported the Otago Combined Christian groups tent ministry on campus during O week. Tent city this year was on the Museum reserve. I was also involved with Residential Assistant and welfare staff training for a good number of our Residential Colleges. I helped organise the CCG Scarfi-guide brochure, orientation programme, Combined prayer/worship times and Jesus Week. CCG is now in its 13th year, and we are looking forward to Orientation 2013.

During March I helped organise and lead the inaugural Anzac Day service on campus. This was a great success and was attended by around one thousand people outside the Clocktower building. This service will now become an annual event.

I have continued to offer *karakia* for blood samples every six weeks or so in the Biochemistry Department, to bless flats and to lead memorial gatherings. Other blessings this year have included the blessing of Cumberland College (after a ghost sighting) and recently, the blessing of a flat near campus after a suicide. These occasions inevitably lead to ongoing pastoral contact with people present at these events. Semester one of this year was busy with a number of student and staff deaths. Last week I conducted the funeral of baby Emma, the 8 month old daughter of a University staff member.

It continues to be my hope that both a memorial garden area and a multi-faith centre can be established on campus.

In April of this year I stood down as Chair of the Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group. I continue on as an active member. We continue to arrange interfaith dialogues, help arrange educational events and to visit schools. The Dunedin Abrahamic Students Interfaith Group recently transformed into the Otago Students Interfaith group. I am continuing to offer this group support and encouragement.

Our Chaplaincy written resources continue to be appreciated by many. This year, once again students in our residential colleges all received a copy of our Homesickness booklet. Earlier this year we reprinted another 3,000 copies of our grief booklet. We have recently obtained a PAC Methodist Church grant to enable the reprinting of our Prayer book.

Throughout this year I have offered a half hour Friday lunchtime service of Holy Communion on the Upper Room.

During early August I helped Professor Kevin Clements organise the visit of two elderly Japanese survivors of the Hiroshima Bombings (6th Aug 1945). I led a Saturday peace vigil around the Peace Pole outside the Museum at which both visitors spoke.

During December 2011, May 2012 and August 2012 I have been involved with the planning and leadership of nine Graduation services of Thanksgiving. Our Peace Lecture last year was delivered by Associate Professor Chris Marshall from Victoria University and this week, on September 3rd by Rabbi Adi Cohen. Both lectures were well attended and have led to ongoing discussion and sharing.

I continue to prepare an quarterly article for the National Methodist newspaper "Touchstone" on the lectionary readings for the coming month. I also continue on as moderator for the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Training Studies (EIDTS) papers Music and Worship, and Creation Spirituality.

I have ongoing contact with TSCF, SCM and Student Life leaders on campus. Recently I was asked to offer a prayer of blessing at the official opening of "The Hub" in Harrow Street, a new alcohol-free venue for students. Our Vice Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne attended and spoke at this event, which is a credit to her.

We held a service of thanksgiving and decommissioning in the "Old Upper room" last November before moving to temporary offices next door to Liquorland in Leith Street, until the "new Upper Room" space in the Link became available in early June. It was a good experience to be based "at street level" for six months. (and to be able to observe the brisk trade at Liquorland!) I am now well settled into my new Upper Room office which is located at the eastern end of the new mezzanine floor. Please come visit. The official opening and blessing of our new offices (by Bishop Colin Campbell, Bishop Kelvin Wright and Rev Richard Dawson) was held on the 25th July 2012, with Rev Arthur Templeton (age 96) cutting the ribbon.

I would like to extend especially sincere thanks to our Board Chairperson Professor Paul Trebilco, Dr George Davis (Methodist District representative on the Board) and all members of the Board for your ongoing support and prayers. As Chaplains we are very privileged to have such a supportive, caring and astute Board. Thank you to my colleagues; Mike, Mark, Amy, Paul, Lyn, Rosie and Angel. Special thanks to my minister Rev Siosifa Pole for his ongoing encouragement and prayers. Thanks also to everyone in the wider Parish and District Methodist Church and wider Dunedin/Otago Christian communities for your financial support, encouragement and prayers. We are rapidly approaching the 50th anniversary (2013) of the establishment of the Chaplaincy Board here at Otago. It is significant that as we prepare to celebrate this special occasion we have the original secretary, Rev Arthur Templeton, still serving as an active member of our Board.

Arohanui, Rev. Greg Hughson

www.otago.ac.nz/chaplain

www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz