



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyter:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Sarah: sarahc@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

9th JUNE 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16th JUNE 2013

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
4.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

WESLEY LEADERS MEETING

Will be held on Tuesday 11th June at 10.30am in the Hall.

OPEN EDUCATION: DAVID BROMELL ON PLANNING THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Don't miss a rare chance to hear David Bromell, a former minister in this parish, now a senior Government consultant, talking about Government planning for the provision of social welfare services. This may be the most important session of the year, following Laura Black's incisive account last month of how it is out there for the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society.

Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, **Wednesday June 19, starting at 7.30pm**; a koha of \$5. As usual there will be a pre-session meal offered. Invite your friends and interested members of the public to attend.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Matthew Gray who turns 8 on the 9th June.

MOST WELCOME ADDITIONS to the Mornington church family in recent weeks have been Rod and Sarah Mitchell and their son, Zac, a student at Kings High School. Neither Rod nor Sarah are strangers in a strange land, as it were. Both are ordained Presbyterian ministers. Rod has had two brief interim ministries in the Parish, (1994 1yr and 2008 3 mths) during the first of which Sarah was a member of the Mornington Choir. The couple moved to Australia in 1995 for Sarah to take up the position of Principal of the United Theological College, in Paramatta, Sydney. At the same time Rod was Chaplain of Newington College, then Minister of the Dee Why Parish, both with the Uniting Church. They then returned to Dunedin, where Sarah was Minister of Knox Church until her recent retirement. Both Rod and Sarah bring with them strong progressive and ecumenical interests, and we look forward to learning from and sharing with them. Arohanui Sarah, Rod and Zac.



PRAYER REQUEST

Prayer is a vital part of our Christian tradition. It is a way that we communicate with God and those that we concern about their wellbeing. Please keep praying for those who are sick and unwell. May they have the energy and strength to endure.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

We have a young Mum who is helping us get the Toy Library up and running. She is very excited about the Hub and has been recommending us to her Facebook friends and this has led us to explore having The Hub on Facebook and our own page is now up and running with 62 likes already. So like us on Facebook. We are The Hub South Dunedin.



Two camps

When I was at primary school, we were taught about opposites: right and left, top and bottom, good and bad. Everything (we were told) has its opposite. But this is not taught any more, and has not been for some time. Why?

One of the great gifts feminist theory has made to our culture is to point out that binary thinking has polarized everybody who thinks into one camp and another camp, diametrically opposed.

Binary thinking is the idea that we have two options: black and white, and there is nothing in-between. Of course we talk all the time about the grey areas, but I am speaking of the origins of our popular philosophy, of our religious thinking, and particularly of our ideas about sexuality. They are very old, and they have entered the language several times, as different languages have contributed to English.

Take, for instance, the oppositeness of mind and body and the extreme difference between them. It probably comes from Greek concepts, and not (I understand) from Hebrew ones, as we meet them in language. Now that we know that the brain is attached to the spinal column and really depends on a system that goes right down the backbone, we can stop opposing head and body. We are one being, with a brain that affects everything (even sexual function -- it is supposed to be the most sensitive and influential body part!).

Another opposition is head and heart, as if only reason existed in the brain and only instinct and feeling in the body. We know that is certainly not true, if you think about the feelingness of poetry, invented in the brain. Follow your head, not your heart, they would say: perhaps they meant the conscience was in the head, too. I will not argue that the conscience is in the body, but you will see what I mean.

The dividing goes further: there are two sexes when God creates Adam and Eve, and they perfectly complement each other. They are unquestionably different, however, and that difference has been accentuated over the centuries until only now are we seeing that there is a great deal in common. Girls are educated to the hilt now, although they never were when education began in England - or anywhere, as far as I

know. It was thought that women's business was the body (and the heart, and sometimes also the conscience) and man's business was the mind, which could stretch as far as the stars in its aspirations.

Of course this was a perfect way of thinking in the nineteenth century, to enable men to pursue a course of action without conscience (for instance following prostitutes) while the dutiful wife kept everything nice at home, arranging or cooking meals for the body, caring for children and the sick, helping them say their prayers, and praying herself -- that her husband would come home... There is a great deal of evidence for well-off males leading double lives for years, even without the story of Jekyll and Hyde.

The difference between expectations of males and females was correspondingly stressed in the matter of child-rearing, so that in the past men had very little to do with the day-to-day caring for young children and babies, at least in the middle-class -- poor people being so shoved into small spaces that the men might have been forced to hold a baby or two in the course of their lives.

Jobs were separated of course, women's work being what you have always heard: bringing up or teaching or nursing children, typing letters invented by great minds...you know the list. Now the pendulum has swung the other way, and females have entered the military, proving they are as capable of killing other human beings as the males. Many thought they should not be there, because women's job is to nurture, etc. but the chilling realization has come through the last decade or so that women are just as vicious and brutal as men in war, and in politics. Both men and women have many sides to their nature: a nurturing as well as an aggressive side, brains as well as brawn, the capacity to do all kinds of good and all kinds of evil.

When we are split into two camps by language or by other people's assumptions, it makes it very difficult to change. If you are a little way along the spectrum between heterosexuality and homosexuality, you may go one way or the other in your lifetime. People have to be fixed by society, however, they have to have a name that stays the same on their bank account, a sex specified in their passport, and so on.

It is a cause of a great deal of misery in just about all spheres of life that we have decided, many centuries ago, that there are only two options for everything we are or do.

-- Helen Watson White