



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

29th SEPTEMBER 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 6th October

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillipps
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
4.00pm	Broad Bay	R Mitchell

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 1st october 1:30pm, when Neil Gamble will speak to us about, "Old times on the Taieri" please bring a friend as this will be most interesting meeting.

EXPLORERS GROUP meets 4-30pm on Sunday Sept 29th, in the Mornington Church lounge, where we will continue our discussion of "Just what do WE think is the Good News?" All interested people are welcome to join us.

ATTENDING METHODIST CONFERENCE

I will be away next week to Methodist Conference held at Wesley College, Paerata. I will leave next Thursday 3rd of October and return on Wednesday the 9th. While I am away Rod Mitchell will take care the administration of the Parish.

Siosifa Pole

ST. KILDA ANNUAL OFFERING

St. Kilda congregation has their annual offering today at St. Kilda church. They Call it 'Misinale', which is the Tongan for 'missionary'. This is the way they fund raise for the cost of ministry. We wish the people of St. Kilda God's Blessing as they celebrate this special occasion today.

CONTINUING OUR FOCUS on FAMILIES in the life of our Parish, we have the WESTON family of Campbell (Cam) Kristen Jasmine Annabelle and Christina. The Westons chose Mornington Church in 2004 despite living in Andersons Bay. They have enriched and enlivened the congregation, and all 3 girls have been fully involved in [Y@M](#). Cam has been with ACC for 16 yrs and is a Case Manager. As Social Convener he has organised a succession of very successful social events that have helped keep our faith community happy and strong. *Kristen* was the subject of last Sunday's TV 1 "Good Sorts" programme in her role with the Salvation Army's Employment Plus. She is a Step Ahead/Work Broker in the Young Parenting and Education Programme, and her rapport with the young women in the programme was clear for all to see on the all-too-short TV presentation. *Jasmine* is at university in Christchurch, likes her newfound independence, has made new friends, and is deeply absorbed in political science. *Annabelle* has gained priority acceptance at Otago Uni for next year and is currently exploring accommodation options. Passionate about the environment, she wants to study the chemistry of environmentally friendly textiles. *Christina* has followed her sisters to Kavanagh College and is busy developing her naturally bubbly personality. A keen swimmer she has recently swum 2.1 kms in 40 mins at the Kawa Dolphin Club, and she's preparing a novelty Comedy Skip for the College Concert. Quite a family!



DUNEDIN INNER CITY MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION RADIO CHURCH

Each Sunday morning a pre-recorded service of worship is offered to our wider community by members of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Association.

Shut-in folk, people in rest-homes, in hospital, travellers and anyone else who cannot attend church services can tune in to:

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM, or worship with us online via www.oar.org.nz each Sunday morning from 8.30 am – 9.00 am.

Please publicise these services widely through all your networks, and tune in yourself to be led in worship by a wide range of Dunedin Church leaders.

Podcasts of services are available, so you can listen to them at any time. This provides a very valuable resource to our wider community.

Go to <http://www.oar.org.nz/browse-podcasts/> and find “Radio Church” via the “Select Programme Name” box.

For further information contact Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

SUSTAINABLE LIVING MORNINGTON COMMUNITY EVENING COURSE Tuesdays 7 - 9pm from 15th October for eight weeks, in the Mornington Methodist Church Lounge.

This interactive course will help you support lifestyle changes you choose to make, learn and share planet-friendly tips specific to Dunedin, and meet like-minded people in your community.

To register for this free course, contact the facilitator, Maureen Howard, on 473 9967 or mhoward@slingshot.co.nz

OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY TRUST BOARD 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

You are warmly invited to attend the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy 50th celebration dinner which will be held at Salmond College on Wednesday 27th November beginning at 6pm. The Chaplaincy Trust Board was established in 1963 and has worked to serve the University, the Polytechnic and the former College of Education throughout the last 50 years. For this reason the board is holding a special dinner featuring a variety of musical items and an after dinner speech by Colin Gibson who served on the Trust Board for many years. Tickets can be purchased from Carol Clarke. Please RSVP to Carol Clarke (contact details below) by October 15th, 2013. It would be wonderful to have you in attendance. Please forward this invitation on to others who may be interested in attending.

Ticket Secretary Contact details and ticket purchasing details

Tickets (\$65 each) can be obtained from Carol Clarke, Student Services Divisional Office, Clocktower, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054. Ph 03 479 5752, email carol.clarke@otago.ac.nz . When you order your tickets please supply a residential address, by email, phone or post. Carol will post the ticket or tickets to you.

Payment

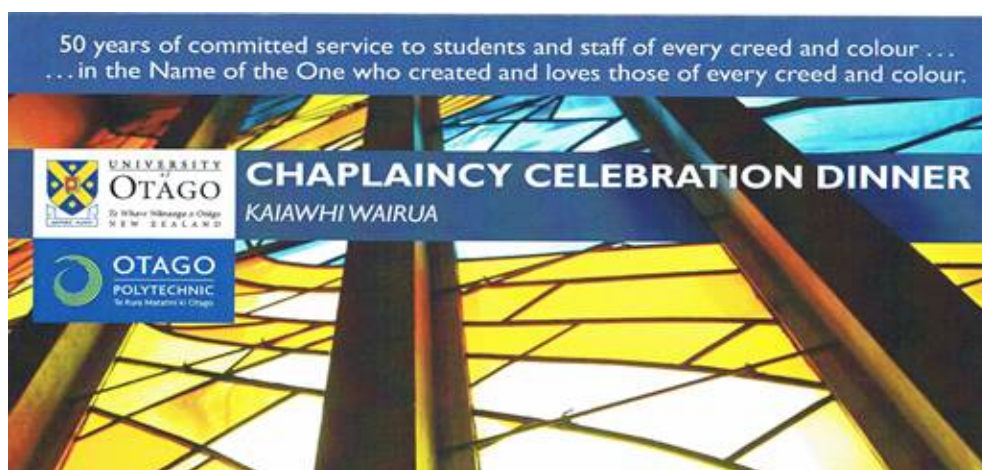
options:

1. (preferable): electronically into the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board BNZ University of Otago bank account 02 0929 0132985 00 using the narration "50th Dinner" to identify your payment.
2. Cheque made out to "Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Board" to Carol Clarke.

Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

Mike Wright chaplain@op.ac.nz

www.otago.ac.nz/chaplain



STORY FROM THE MISSION

A 10 year old boy who comes from gang home, moved to Dunedin with his family because Dad was in prison here. He started to show escalated aggressive behaviours at school and we became involved. We talked about options for this boy and he decided to attend Arahina. With the programmes offered at Arahina he got the opportunity to explore the local waterways, forests, and parks, and we had an opportunity to offer this child some options outside of school that would help him. We were involved in putting a Strengthening Families meeting in place after he was exited from CY&F, and from that he now has support in school, he has attended a one on one counselling session for his behaviour and has graduated from that, attended the Tamariki programme at Te Whare Pounamu, his school work has improved as has his behaviour and he now attends and loves Taekwondo. He is a role model at Arahina, and is often heard to talk with other kids, and say walk away, calm down, think, talk. It is so lovely to see this young boy grow into the man he will be some day.



"Better lucky than good" was the chipper remark of Oracle skipper Jimmy Spithill when a ridiculous time limit rule gave him a reprieve in the America's Cup race that should have handed *the Auld Mug* to

Team New Zealand. As it happened, Spithill can now claim to be the greatest Come Back King (sorry if this offends you) since Lazarus. We hate that breed, and what makes it seem worse is the knowledge the Aussie gun was hired to the fifth richest of rich Americans, business software mogul, Larry Ellison of the Oracle Corporation, and a man for whom the winning and retention of the Cup is linked to an even bigger phenomenon, the Larry Ellison Legend. He's said to be worth \$43 billion and rising.

If there's one thing Ellison doesn't need it's luck. He's built the America's Cup campaign on the same principles as his Oracle business - the only thing that matters is a successful result, by whatever means it takes. And so Jimmy Spithill's words were doubtless heartfelt. Lady luck smiled on him that day - big time. The mind can only boggle at the

thought of what his skipper's bonus will be. With no sympathy for the "luckless" Kiwis, Spithill was philosophical about his rank good fortune. "You can laugh or cry. We're laughing, and we live to sail another day." Better lucky than good!

Setting the America's Cup entirely to one side, I've been thinking about the role of luck in our lives. It's huge, actually. We're lucky to be New Zealanders. Think being Syrian or Somalian. Think Taliban woman. Think Bangladeshi sweated labour seamstress. Think Central American exploited child coffee pickers. Just think! I thought of the number of times as a preacher I used those familiar but often-trite phrases "there but for the grace of God go I," or in a less religious mode, have opined on the "accident of birth" whereby I/we, whether deserving or not, have been deposited on planet Earth in Aotearoa/New Zealand of all favoured places.

That is a given for us, and you and I should acknowledge "lucky me" every time we eat a regular meal, plant a tomato, exercise a vote, earn a wage, collect a pension, contribute to "charity" and freely step inside our local church to say our prayers. Not one of these is an activity shared equally with every fellow human being, and none can be taken for granted in a world where some know only grinding poverty, others live in perpetual danger, while others live in the thrall of naked malicious power from which there is no escape. Jimmy Spithill's native land, with good cause, is known as the Lucky Country while we on this side of the Ditch gladly own the title, Godzone. We should daily embrace the luck of being who and where we are !

But let me take this further. What worries me is what might be called "the politics of luck" and the extent to which I see it has invaded the philosophy of those who rule this nation. How to present evidence within an article of this length is a challenge, and just a few examples will have to suffice -

* The Government's deal with Sky City to build a \$402 million convention centre in central Auckland in exchange for 230 additional pokie machines - condemned by every social agency bringing evidence to the Commerce Select Committee, but approved by Government and Auckland Council as "necessary."

* The Government's dogged determination to sell off 49% of its power company assets to those lucky/willing enough to risk their money in

shares - condemned by wiser counsels, including Treasury, but the Government bent on surrendering long term dividends and fiscal prudence for the illusion of pre-election financial strength.

* The Government's refusal, despite the most urgent pleas from struggling first-home buyers, to avert the housing crisis in Auck/Chch. A blind faith in market forces and an instinctive leaning toward the interests of property developers and those in a position to profit from the overheated housing market, guarantees the continuing advantage of those who have as against those who do not.

* Again, the Government's repeated failure to intervene when so-called "restructuring" or "economising" decisions are taken for a short-term or sectional gain but leave already struggling regions further disadvantaged. Think repeated rationalisations that have heaped job loss upon loss on the Otago/Dunedin community. Again, market and profit forces have been allowed to run rampant. Just one example - the gutting of Invermay, deemed "inevitable."

I am no economist, but I know the signs of a luck economy when I see them - gambling long term security and stability for short-term gain. It is all the more easy when those who govern are themselves totally secure, well endowed, and profiting from the very market forces that make it harder at the lower end, strangling the poor in the process. Have we heard the voice of Laura Black in successive contributions to this column - speaking out for those in this and similar communities remote from the centres of power and influence, whose interests are consistently compromised by selfish policies that bet the future on profit not welfare, "commercially benchmarked" services, and visionless cost accounting?

Luck has some great stories to tell. The ploy, of course, is to get Campbell Live or Fair Go on your case. Every week, it seems, someone's rank bad luck changes big-time as the baddie of the moment, a heartless bureaucracy, a crooked salesman, a dishonest contractor, yields in the face of intense public exposure. We love it when that happens! And Lotto winners are feted and celebritised - though goodness knows why! And I'll say it - how drab a life without the element of luck for the lucky - sadly the converse, ill luck if you're strong enough to cope.

But government has no business in the luck business. Government must, of all things, ensure fairness. eschew sectional interests, and safeguard the assets of the country for the benefit of all. Luck favours the few who

have the advantages to be in the place where luck can shine - like the Spithill/Ellison combo. Bad luck leaves others far in the wake - like Dean Barker on the slower boat. There are many more Barkers than Spithills.

There's no one from Auckland to Dunedin (privately, even Uesifili Unasa himself) who believes my friend and former colleague has even the slimmest chance of winning the Auckland mayoralty. But with the stakes as high as they are, winning is not everything, and Uesifili wisely is not betting his chances on a lucky break. The interview in the August Touchstone makes that clear. He's thrown his hat into the ring for "marginalised communities" that run the risk of being further marginalised in the billion-dollar bargaining over the major infrastructure for Auckland City. He's not against efficient transport - rail, tunnels, bridges, - much of it long neglected - but not if the price is so high as to sideline the people side of what he calls "the whole package" - job growth, liveable wages, warm homes - and more money available for community initiatives. He's nailed his colours to the mast and many say his voice will be drowned

We who keep on advocating for the Christian dimension in all of this should not lose sight of one of theology's great points of difference - that between pre-destination and grace, between chance and choice. The stern colossus John Calvin stands astride the Reformation affirming the primacy of God's authority in all things - and whether for good or for ill, it is ordained so. And by that creed the perennially rich stayed rich and the poor remained in their ghettos - and who could question it if God so willed! The Arminian tradition, of whom John Wesley was a persuasive advocate, offered a softer, more compassionate take on God and a bigger say for us women and men in human affairs. And compassion too. The austere immutable God who kept everything in its place gave way to a God who loves justice and weeps over everything that degrades human dignity.

The huge divide of the Reformation remains to test us all. In these hugely significant times, I know on which side I want to be.
Ken Russell