



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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PARISH BULLETIN

16th February 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23rd February

9.30 am	Mornington	H Watson White
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
11.00 am	Glenaven	H Watson White
11.00 am	Wesley	S Ungemuth
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

POT-LUCK LUNCH Sunday 23 FEBRUARY: After the Mornington/ Glenaven service on February 23 you are invited to John and Helen's house for a pot-luck lunch and informal discussion about how you envisage the future of Glenaven Church. 12.30 at 5 Cairnhill Street, off Cannington Road - car-pooling and directions to be arranged at church. Please bring a plate of easy finger-food to share (tea/coffee provided). Tel. Watson / White: 467 2936



EXPLORERS GROUP meets for the first time this year on Sunday February 23rd, at 4-30pm in the Mornington Church Lounge. As there is to be a Parish Strategic Review in the near future, the focus of this meeting will be "Church". All interested people most welcome; if you haven't joined our group before, maybe the beginning of the year is the time to take the plunge!

MORNINGTON METHODIST FELLOWSHIP The first Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday 26th February at 12 Noon - in the Sunday School, followed by the Meeting in the lounge, then we will don our life jackets & join the Pearce's on 'Cruising the Rhine'. Please remember a plate of food - to share with the Members & all your 'Least Coins'. See you there - all welcome.

PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW

Otago District Women's Fellowship
Celebrating 50 years of Women's Fellowship
SATURDAY 29 MARCH 2014 at 2:30pm

At Mornington Methodist Church
 Meal to follow afternoon programme.
 More information later.

If you have any photos or memorabilia of District Events
 please lend to Margaret Connor or Fay Richardson
 for displaying during the afternoon.



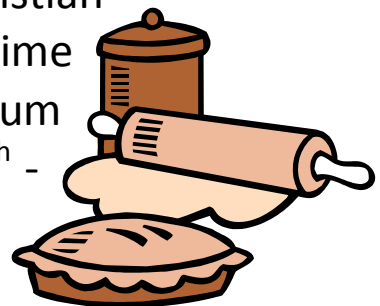
PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Methodist of Fiji for the death of their president, Rev Dr. Tuikilakila K. Waqairatu. His death is a great loss to the church and the community. We can only pray that God will comfort them and raise a leader who could offer hope to their church and society.



METHODISTS EVENING: The Methodists are invited to join with the Combined Christian Groups in their tent on Tuesday evening the 18th February at 8pm-2am during the University Of Otago orientation week. Greg and myself will be happy to see good support from the parish on this event. Please contact me or Greg if you would like to participate. We need to know the number of people who are available to be involved. Thanks, Siosifa Pole.

BAKING AND FRUIT NEEDED The Otago Combined Christian Groups network will have a daytime and night-time presence in a large Scripture Union tent on the Museum Lawn during University of Otago Orientation week (17th - 22nd February), on the corner of Albany and Cumberland Streets. Please visit our tent. We plan



once again to distribute information about local Churches and Christian Groups, along with baking and fruit! Please deliver baking and fruit throughout Orientation week to the new University Chaplaincy Offices on the eastern end of the new mezzanine floor in the University Union building (signposted from downstairs).Inquiries: Greg Hughson 479 8497

MORNINGTON PASTORAL CARE GROUP LEADERS : A meeting with Rod to discuss the purpose and working of the Pastoral Care Groups will be held in the lounge on Sunday 23rd February at 11.15am to be followed by a pot luck lunch. If unable to attend please let Beryl know Ph 4767447

STORY FROM THE MISSION

A family of boys was referred to Arahina because they were not able to go to any other outside of school programmes as their behaviours were challenging. When Arahina first engaged with these boys it was 'the power of three' - they were their own power pack, and engaged in rough and tumble physical interactions with each other, and anyone else who would dare to take on these boys.

Child youth and family were involved with the family and would come to see the boys - a conversation was overheard one day when the boys were asked by the visiting CY&F Social Worker, "how come you are not naughty at Arahina, but you are at school? What is the difference?" One of them replied, "Arahina likes us though!"

This was a huge breakthrough for these boys, we separated them into different days and worked on their individual skills and strengths to the point that the schools asked what we were doing with them? And the schools successfully utilised some of the strategies into their programmes.

We were in fact using the boys' strengths to help other children with challenging behaviours, setting expectations around the rules and boundaries and so they became the role models.

One of these young men is just about to graduate at Approach Community Learning, and has been accepted into the Polytechnic Personal training course, for 2014. That is because the Mission has supported him with his work experience and given him enough support and challenge for him to risk a better future, and he has.

PARISH MEETING

The Parish Meeting held at Broad Bay (possibly for the last time) worked through reports covering all the Parish's activities and draws your attention to the following:

- The Parish is seeking nominations for a third Parish Steward
- Emeritus Professor Colin Gibson was appointed temporary Chair of the meeting
- An important parish-wide consultation to form major decisions on its buildings and the future of its congregations will be held on Saturday 22 March from 9.30-4pm. Further details will follow
- Open Education will commence on 19 March with a Police speaker on Child Abuse
- The St Kilda Tongan youth group will use the study guide on the Book of Esther prepared by the Mornington YAM group
- Rod Mitchell will introduce a study programme, using the DVD resource Painting the Stars, dealing with the latest science on the development of the universe
- On March 29, the Women's Fellowship celebrate the founding of their organisation
- A large attendance at the next Synod and Theological School (Queenstown, March 7-10) is sought to meet the President and a delegation from Taha Maori



For a start, I'm so grateful to be "a citizen of no mean city". Last month my charmed health record took a hit, leading to two stays in Dunedin Hospital. For me, it was like entering a new world.

The world of the public health sector, particularly the hospital service, is impressive to say the least. High stakes, high finance, high tech, highly qualified and dedicated staff on call 24/7. Another world indeed, yet one that we all hold to account. Nothing else quite matches it for both internal complexity and public scrutiny.

Take the scrutiny aspect for example. In the short period of my admissions, public media comment touched on two matters where I could have contributed a tiny statistic. There was the hardy annual of Emergency Department workloads, especially as affected by levels of intoxication, and again only last weekend during the Wellington Sevens tournament. Whether the higher emergency which bumped me out of the operating theatre for a couple of hours was genuine or self-inflicted, I wouldn't know.

Then a week later, I notice that I could have contributed some data to the acute readmission rate being analysed at the SDHB's hospital advisory committee. Just imagine any other institution being subject to so much intense assessment. Imagine a church's activities being critically evaluated across the board and at every step along the way.

Whether as a result of a little leftover anesthetic or not, my mind seemed to become stalled on the multiplicity of and interrelationships between the different worlds that surround us. I've even become fixated on the very word "**world**", which seems to be the best term for all that pertains to any one complex entity. What is a world? How many are there? How are they related?

There seems to be no limit. Once the surgeon began the keyhole surgery, he (who it was) entered my own inner world – as complex as any other. And even more complex than implied by calling it simply *my* world. I recall reading in recent months in *National Geographic* about “The Secret World of Microbes”. All told, the number of microbes in each of our bodies outnumbers our own cells by 10 to one, and they can weigh as much as or more than our brains. Each of us is thus both an organism and a densely populated ecosystem. Truly, there are worlds within worlds. And for that matter, each of the trillions of bacteria and viruses inhabiting each of us is also a world in itself.

On surfacing again to the macro scale we normally deal with, I began to wonder about the relationship between just two other worlds – the worlds of health and religion. Time was when they were much closer than they are now. Jesus was once considered as much a healer as a teacher. Only 50 years ago our church’s mission in a Third World country (as it was called) was as much about health as it was about education and evangelism. I doubt if I could have operated with a clear conscience in the PNG Highlands at that time on any other basis.

Yet in this country there’s no mistaking a widening of the gap that has occurred between the two worlds. 50 years ago, as I also recall, the provision for chaplaincy in Dunedin Hospital was much more pronounced than it is now. Chaplaincy aside, I was interested to note as a patient some tenuous other examples of non-governmental involvement in hospital services. A St John volunteer kindly attended to any personal comfort needs in the observation area of the Emergency Department. Having lacked the foresight to arrive prepared for possible admission, I was helped out with a toilet pack thanks to the generosity of the Freemasons Charity. And in the top drawer of my bedside cabinet (as in many motels and hotels) was a copy of *The New Testament and the Psalms*, courtesy of the Gideons.

On the frontispiece of the book was a single Biblical quote: “God so loved the world...” That word again, but with a wider connotation. Elsewhere in the New Testament the “world” is not always looked upon so favourably, and Christianity has often suffered from an equivocal attitude to the world – “this world of darkness”, as the old hymn put it. Questionable in a different way is the interpretation entrenched in the words of the Doxology – “Glory be to the Father ... world without end. Amen.”

It then occurred to me that the comparison between different worlds might become clearer if I checked the etymology of the English word “world” itself. I could never have guessed it. It comes from two root words for man and (old) age. No wonder this old man had become fastened on it! But its puzzling derivation may well point to a useful approach to all the various worlds we inhabit and encounter.

All worlds share the inescapable dynamics of life and time. There is no “world without end”. Each of our own individual worlds will eventually become a world without mend. So too our group worlds. New worlds are born out of old worlds. Being sensitive to worlds within worlds may well be an important piece of wisdom the church has to offer. But only if it senses that the transitoriness of all things applies as much to itself as to the other worlds it engages with.

But to return to those words attributed to Paul (Acts 21:39, KJV) and to twist them a little, I have chiefly discovered that I belong to a city that is by no means mean. Meanness there may be in some measure here and there as anywhere, but the overwhelming characteristic is kindness. Kindness is the golden thread that can keep on running through all the fragile worlds of our existence, from families to the wide, wide world itself. Let’s concentrate on recognising and increasing kindness.

David Kitchingman