



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
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@dmm.org.nz	
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

7th September 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 14th September

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole (AGM)
9.30 am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	H Watson-White
11.00 am	Wesley	D Phillipps
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

OTAGO UNIVERSITY – PUBLIC LECTURE

Who is now my neighbor?

Chris Clarke – Chief Executive Officer, World Vision (NZ)

Wednesday, 10th September 2014 – 7.00pm

St David Lecture Theatre

MOSGIEL LEADERS MEETING

Members of Mosgiel Leaders meeting will meet on Tuesday evening, 9th of September at 7.30pm.

FAITH THINKING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

In September:

Music and Worship through the Ages

Presented by Malcolm Gordon (Worship, Music and Arts Enabler, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand), this course will be held on **Friday September 19, 7-9pm and Saturday September 20, 9-12.30** at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Knox College, Arden Street.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

In October:

The Other Church History:

How Christianity went East and South into Asia and Africa from the Beginning until the Present Day

Presented by Dr Tim Cooper (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Friday October 10, 7-9pm and Saturday October 11, 9-12.30** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

To register contact the Summer School & Continuing Education Office, University of Otago,

Email: continuing.education@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 479 9181.

INVITATION TO SPRING AFTERNOON TEA, SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Mary and Sue invite our Mornington friends to a spring afternoon tea at our place, 197 Balmacewen Road on Sunday 7th Sept; come any time between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.



LIFE MATTERS DUNEDIN WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY SERVICE

"Every life matters" Date: Wednesday 10th September 7pm, supper to follow. Venue: ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, THE OCTAGON, DUNEDIN. **ALL WELCOME.**



STORY FROM THE MISSION

From Little Citizens' Support & Advocacy

Worker: Last week a family was very lucky all to escape with their lives where their home was completely destroyed by fire. There were three generations in the house and the dad was burned on the hands and face while rescuing the son and then making sure that his own father, who is disabled, was safely out of the house.

The family is staying with family friends until the insurance company gives the approval for them to rent another house for their immediate needs, and there has been a great response from their community, with donations of furniture and household items, which are currently being stored.

When I spoke to the family, there are twelve people currently staying in the home, including three teenagers and two young children. So there was disruption to their usual routines and budgets. The immediate need was for basic food supplies. We contacted FoodShare, who co-ordinate the distribution of donated food items to organisations in Dunedin, and arranged for some supplies. Deborah Manning was very helpful and co-ordinated two deliveries of food to the family, including basics of milk, bread, fruit and veggies, with some tinned food, cereals and frozen meat and even some donated chocolate.

The family have been overwhelmed by the support they have received from everyone in the community who has known about their situation and very thankful to everyone. It was humbling to be part of such a great community response to their difficulties.

SYMPATHY

On behalf of the Wesley congregation and The Dunedin Methodist Parish, I would like to convey a message of sympathy and condolences to Margaret Newton for the death of her husband, Sam Newton last Monday, 1st of September 2014. It is our prayer that God's spirit will grant you peace and comfort during this time of grieving.

THE CONGREGATION WAS THERE - but where was the preacher?

Siosifa, fog-bound in Auckland. Oh well, the show went on. A full house at Wesley Hall. Kakala lit the candle. Donald stepped into the breach. Hilda & Fay led prayers. Ian read from the Bible, and Earlene Owens capped so much preparation of the PARABLE OF THE SOWER to an attentive group of children. And of course the St Kilda choir rendered their special harmony. Three photos to remind us.





In last Sunday's *Connections* Laura Black spoke of the roasting she got from baby boomers, indignant and even abusive that she had dared

criticise Labour's election promise of subsidies for the over 65's - in particular, free doctors visits and prescriptions. In an interview in the ODT, Laura had made it clear enough. The boomers have lived their lives in a culture of perceived entitlement, and while they would naturally welcome further assistance, in the context of a multitude of health and social needs competing for a slice of a limited national resource, further subsidies should not rate a mention.

Which in the ears of many in the grey haired battalions, was nigh to heresy, and it seems the Mission phone ignited with their fury. Can't you just hear it . . . "the very nerve of the woman - and from the Methodist Mission of all places!"

Except that we in the Parish, of all people, should stand apart from the chorus of denunciation. Indeed, we should leave our prophet at the Mission in no doubt of our support on this and other politically unpalatable issues she has spoken up for in her time as Director. (Mission website www.dmm.org.nz *Let's Get Real about . . .*

Laura herself may well eschew the prophetic label and plead she is simply doing her job. Ok. But that job has assumed a pretty high profile here in Dunedin, and if the current upset is anything to go by, has been noticed. That's encouraging. Real prophets, by definition, do get noticed. A prophet, by any other name, is still a prophet. Go you good thing, Laura.

* * * * *

So what are the prophetic - as against the self-serving, and prurient issues of the election campaign? Three clues from the current week . . .

1. Laura spoke at the Open Education evening in July. Some will remember she gave us a name to watch - another prophet of the social scene, Russell Wills, Childrens Commissioner and Hawke's Bay Paediatrician. It seems the NZ Listener made the same assessment. The current edition features an 8-page spread on a young man who divides his time as the official advocate for children, and one of three paediatricians at the coal face of childrens' ills and deprivation at Hawke's Bay Hospital. It's headed *BORN POOR* and prompts the question "*How far should the State go to end child poverty?*" Wills' answer is simple - as far as it takes. And while warning against a reckless throwing of money, his inference is clear that the need demands funding far beyond the present limits of government spending.

Wills watches every day as Kiwi kids take the brunt of chronic inequality. He says there are 170,000 children living in identifiable poverty, the causes of which are both simple and complex - simple because of the ever-widening gap between rich and poor and complex because there are so many contributing factors, cold crowded housing, inadequate diet, poor parenting, domestic violence, gross neglect, and crippling unemployment among the unskilled. He remarks on the tragic irony that paediatricians come from the UK to his hospital to study diseases they've read about in books, but never seen at first hand - tuberculosis and rheumatic fever.

So what are the uncomfortable realities in NZ society that help to shape the drastic decline in the prospects of a growing number of our children? One is the tolerance too common on the political right that if a child is born poor, the accident of birth determines the child's lifetime prospects. The other is that among centre-left and female voters child poverty rates among the top elections issues, but business and centre-right voters rate it about seventh.

Both must change, and change quickly if the battle for better children's futures is to be won - and if Russell Wills has his way this election will result in children's issues becoming the subject of a national conversation. And hopefully, I say, taken out of the arena of party politics and raised to a level of national priority. Nothing less.

2. On Tuesday night TV1 a programme fronted by Nigel Latta showed a surgeon at Nelson Hospital extracting 7 teeth from a 2 yr old child. The teeth were virtually rotted to the gums, and had become such a health risk to the child that only extraction could prevent toxemia, and if still untreated, possibly death. That particular hospital had scheduled several similar operations the same day, involving a full theatre staff - reckoning the cost to the taxpayer at \$5000 per operation

The programme claimed, quite believably, that the cause of such massive and dangerous tooth decay was the child's consumption of sugary drinks. Indeed the child's mother had volunteered the information that she had mixed coca cola with milk in the child's bottle!

The Latta programme lifted the lid on the food industry's defense of sugary drinks and the appalling damage to child health. A bottle of coke, said to be the biggest seller in NZ supermarkets, sells for less than milk and less than bottled water - yet contains 48 teaspoons of sugar.

The programme compared the health and performance of kids attending schools where sugary drinks are allowed, and those where they are not, and the results were astounding. Yet amid the tumult and shouting of this election campaign, how much attention is being given to the voices calling for action to be taken against an enemy so close, so familiar, so all pervasive, it is killing our kids, stunting their growth and impairing their health. Can this nation possibly continue to tolerate the arguments of the food industry that it's OK to be left to consumer choice? It's an election issue - let's re-examine those policy statements before we vote.

3 Last night the leaders of the minor parties sat down to dinner on *Campbell Live*, and answered questions on their policies - an important discussion given that two or three or even four of them will feature in an MMP coalition with National or Labour. Two of these, Act and Conservative, openly advocate tax cuts - and will add their weight to the desire of some in National, if circumstances permit, to support cuts. Others, the Greens and Mana, make no apology for increasing tax rates for those who can afford to pay more.

I am no economist, unqualified to discuss issues of the economy with the sophistication that political commentators bring to bear. But my election question is simply this - can tax cuts possibly help kids caught in the mire of poverty?

Sometimes, important issues need to be taken out of the realm of political ideology and subjected to the simple logic of common sense. There are 170,000 plus kids whose futures cannot wait while right-wing politicians explore their theory that tax cuts will release opportunities for growth that will reward all sectors of the population - poor kids included. To this simple observer that's nothing but political spin to cover the inevitable outcome, that the rich will get richer still, and the poor poorer. Less tax for the rich? It's a no-brainer.

If I must plead guilty to over-simplification of complex political issues then I will. There is so much at stake in the coming election, and nothing more so than the future of our kids, far too many of whom have already been "born poor."

And if we need a text, how about this . . . *"an argument arose among them as to which was the greatest, but Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side and said 'whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me'*

Ken Russell