



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

26th October 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2nd November

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	G Hughson
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	G Hughson
11.00 am	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley

MORNINGTON MEMBERS please add to your diary the next **Leaders' Meeting on Tuesday November 4th** in the lounge at 7.30pm. Thanks, Hilda.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP'S next meeting is to be Mr. David Woodward speaking to us about bees on Tuesday 4th November at 1:30pm. All interested people are welcome. Please phone 489 7663 if you would like to come.

MMMMM, yummy truffles! Christmas will be here before you know it, so if you would like truffles as small thank-you gifts to give away, take to a function, or nibble on yourself as you wrap Christmas presents, now is your chance. If you would like to support the annual fundraiser for the Mornington Toy & Games Library, you can give your order to Rebecca Neaves (I have to have orders in by Sat., Nov. 1). The truffles are \$6.00 a dozen, freeze very well, and will be delivered to you at church on Sunday, November 16 (or to your home on Saturday, the 15th if that is easier). Thanks to everyone who has supported us year after year, it is very much appreciated!



EXPLORERS GROUP - We meet this Sunday, 26 October, at 4.30 pm in the Mornington Church lounge. All welcome.

25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY - INVITATION

Greg Hughson was ordained 25 years ago (November 5th 1989) in the Michael Fowler Centre Wellington, during the 1989 Methodist Conference. To acknowledge the significance of this anniversary a "gathering of friends" will be held at Mornington Methodist Church on Wednesday 5th November. There will be a pot-luck meal from 6pm-7pm in the lounge and a time of reflection, sharing and Holy Communion, led by Rev Siosifa Pole in the Church from 7pm-8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Next Wednesday 29 October at 7.30pm in Wesley Hall there will be a Special Parish Meeting:

1. We will try to make some decisions about the future of the Dunedin Parish.
2. Information will be discussed coming from the recently distributed questionnaires.
3. Much information about possible option has been debated about the future. It is time to make decisions.

GRANDPARENTING was the agenda at the Open Education session at Mornington on Wednesday night, and what an interesting and lively night it turned out to be. Question-master Colin Gibson kept the six-strong panel (Jeanette Gibson, Beryl Neutze, Liz & Murray Petrie, Sarah & Rod Mitchell) on their toes with some leading questions - to which they responded with candour, and strong feelings at times. Some of the questions - how do you remember your grandparents? - what have you noticed in the developing character of your grandchildren? - have they taught you anything about yourself, and the world they live in? - as people of faith yourselves, do you try and pass anything of your own faith to them, or is that a no-go area? PHOTO shows the six grandparents with appreciative flowers.



COSTS & PROFITS - for those in the Parish who wonder about costs and profits relating to our monthly Church dinners at Mornington, the following break-down from Wednesday's dinner can be simply shown.

Dinner takings	\$460
Dinner costings	\$200
Dinner profits	\$260
Diners pay \$15 each	
Cost of meal per head	\$6.60

All profits are directed through the Mornington Leaders Mtg A/C. A small committee is recommending that the profits from Wednesday (\$260) be added to a special effort NEXT MONTH on behalf of Ebola-struck children in Sierra Leone. Speaker will be Prof. Binns of the Geography Dept. WATCH THIS SPACE for a big Parish effort.

LABOUR DAY

Please remember those who are working hard and those who are unemployed in your prayers. May those who have jobs find time to relax and may those who do not have jobs able to find one to support their families. Thank you, Rev. Siosifa Pole.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Over the last few months, I have been developing my role supporting the families of children at our Early Learning Centre and I'm finding that parents really appreciate the service we offer. I have now established a process around working with new parents, which informs them of my role, offers support if needed and prepares the way to access support in the future.

I introduce myself to new families as soon as possible, and once their child has settled in at the Centre, I aim to have a more structured meeting with all new parents within four to six weeks. A week or two after starting at the Centre, I give them some information about myself and a brief questionnaire for parents to take home. The questionnaire

acts as a general introduction and asks parents to identify activities that their child enjoys at the centre, any concerns that the family may have and their general awareness of services that are available from the Mission and the wider community. Parents can complete the questionnaire themselves or with me if they prefer.

I will then make a time with the parent to meet them at their home. I find that meeting people in their own environment is more empowering for them and helps them express themselves more easily. Almost all the parents I have asked have been happy for me to visit them at their home and if a parent does prefer to meet in my office, then we meet in the office. At the start of the meeting, I tell parents about my role as Support and Advocacy worker and let them know that this is a service available at any time to families with a child at Little Citizens. If they are not already familiar with The Mission, I talk a bit about our vision and purpose, and other services that might be helpful to them, such as the Hub.

I always explain to parents that any information they give me will be confidential, and I use the PCOMS tools as a way for the parent to give me an indication of how they are feeling about different aspects of their lives right now and provide feedback on how they find the meeting itself. The PCOMS initiates the conversation about how things are going for the family and allows the parent to talk through with me what the score marks mean. We may talk about whether there is an area in their lives where they would like to make a change and if an issue is identified, I am happy to engage further with the person.

I have found that parents are very positive about this process. They appreciate the information about our service, the offer of support if needed and the opportunity to talk about their children. Although some families are coping with very difficult circumstances, most are well able to cope with the problems they face. They are happy to hear that if a time comes when they do need support, they are welcome to come and talk to me. All the parents I have met want the very best for their children and know how to contact me or find me if needed.

BROAD BAY METHODIST CHURCH – Closing Service

The Dunedin Methodist Parish and the Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa, have made the decision to close the Broad Bay Methodist Church. Members of the Broad Bay congregation will continue to participate in the Dunedin Methodist Parish but will be leaving the present building.

A de-commissioning and closing service will be held at Broad Bay on Sunday 30 November 2014 at 11am. The service will be followed by a shared lunch* with time to talk and share memories.

We warmly invite anyone who has had an association with the Broad Bay Methodist Church (presbyters, members, youth group members) and members of the Broad Bay and wider Peninsula community to join us in this service which will be one of celebration and moving on.

The service will be addressed by the Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Bella Ngaha and there will be recollection of the history of this congregation which has had a presence on the Otago Peninsula since 1859 when William Bacon set up a room in his home for Methodist worship.

We'll be mounting a small display of photos and other memorabilia so if you have anything you want to add, let us know.

*The shared pot luck lunch - Please bring finger food or food that doesn't need reheating if at all possible. (Note that out of town visitors are not expected to bring food – there will be plenty!)

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DIDN'T WE JUST VOTE?

They say a week in politics is a long time. In my case, it was just a few hours. Having generously written in the Star on Thursday 16th October that:

Housing NZ manages around 69,000 houses. Selling off a third of them might not be such a bad idea... but that doesn't mean they can go without replacing – the need for social housing is only getting more urgent. Especially in Auckland and Christchurch.

It was with some surprise that I read in the Herald just one day later, that

Finance Minister Bill English says the proceeds from selling state houses are unlikely to be spent on new state houses and may go into the Consolidated Account.

Assuming that these houses will not be sold to community groups as social housing because a) they're no longer fit for purpose and b) community groups can't afford the debt to buy them ... If this is what is going to happen, then it really is hard to overstate how awful a decision it is.

To start with, 20,000 odd state houses will have been removed from the mix. At a time when we already have housing crises in our two largest cities.

The law of supply and demand tells us what will happen next. Prices will escalate, both for rentals, and for ownership units (because a large portion of the value of the lower end of the market is driven by the landlord's return on investment – and remember that NZ has no capital gains tax so those who speculate on the property market (and do well) get to take all their profit home.

Responsibly priced accommodation will be in even more short supply. Then things will get *worse*.

Because house price increases are a significant feature of New Zealand's inflation rate, it's likely that the Reserve Bank will raise interest rates to keep inflation in check. And when our interest rates rise, our dollar rises in value with it (all those Japanese housewives putting their money in safe old NZ).

All this just as the price of our most valuable export – milk solids – is, excuse the pun, tanking. Because most exporters' contracts are in US dollars, it's a double whammy: the US dollar buys fewer of our dollars, and we're getting fewer US dollars to start with.

So. Sell a third of Housing NZ's stock and: functional homelessness rises, the financial stressors faced by low income families increases with all the misery that comes with that, interest rates rise affecting everyone with any debt (including businesses), exporters' incomes drop, and here it comes ... drum roll please ... unemployment will worsen, further hammering low income families.

Who on earth could be happy with this?

Well, property developers and landlords will do really rather well. Importers will be happy. And the Minister of Finance will get to brag about lowering overall Government debt or – horrible thought – give (more) tax cuts for the rich just before the next election.

So here's the thing. We have just had an election haven't we? Yet I can't remember radical realignment of social housing and massive impacts on our economy were offered up for debate.

Can you?

Laura Black