



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	
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

9th November 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16th November

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
9.30 am	Mosgiel	George, Earlene, Fay
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
11.00 am	Wesley	George Earlene Fay
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

WESLEY CONGREGATION MEETING - The Wesley congregation is asked to have a meeting after the church service today (9th of November). This meeting is about the future of the Wesley congregation. Please stay and be part of this conversation. Thank you, Siosifa Pole.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ariana Smith who turned 6 on November 8th!

ADVENT STUDY - There will be an Advent study starting on Wednesday 26th November at Wesley hall. For those who would be interested to join in this study, please contact me on 455 2913/ 466 4600.

Thanks, Siosifa.

PF&R COMMITTEE - The PF&R Committee will meet at the Mission building at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12 November.

LIFE MATTERS SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMUNITY MEETING

7.30pm, Tuesday 11 November, ALEXANDER MCMILLAN ROOM, Dunedin Community house. AGENDA: **Community discussion about SDHB draft suicide prevention plan.**

Please read the draft policy (available from Greg Hughson) and come to critique it and suggest changes. Please bring a gold coin donation to help pay for rental of room. Please bring a plate. We supply coffee and tea. ALL WELCOME.

Contact: Rev Greg Hughson,

greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz 027 212 1048

<https://www.facebook.com/LifeMattersOtago>

CONGRATULATIONS SHIRLEY - Following closely on a beautiful service held on 5 November at Mornington Methodist Church celebrating the Reverend Greg Hughson's ordination to the Methodist ministry twenty-five years ago, another of our ministers will shortly celebrate 50 years of devoted work within the Methodist Church. The Reverend Shirley Ungemuth was first dedicated as a Deaconess on 8 November 1964, then ordained as a Deaconess, then ordained as a Presbyterian! Through all of these changing practices in the Church, Shirley has given a life-time of loving service in many circumstances. Congratulations, Shirley, from us all.

WEDNESDAY 12th November 2pm Mid-Week Service @ Maran-atha all welcome.

WEDNESDAY 12th November 7:30pm @Wesley Parish Prayer Group Meeting. Please come to support our Parish.



VISIT TO THE MATANUI WATERWHEEL. On Sunday 23rd November we are invited to travel to the Owaka area to visit the recently restored Matanui Waterwheel and farm of Nathan and Linda Wilson. The plan is to leave church after the service at approx. 11:00a.m. and visit the farm (90 mins travel time). As the weather will be perfect bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the large rolling lawn before enjoying the sight of the mighty waterwheel rotating seemingly effortlessly, powered by the thunderous flow from the mighty Matanui catchment (transport available to this industrial site) and for those keen and able, exploration of the disused railway tunnel nearby(bring a torch). Please advise Cam 454 5600 (evenings) if interested in coming to maximize transport. The trip will happen irrespective of weather.

TRAGEDY IN SIERRA LEONE

On Wednesday 19 November, at Mornington Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm, there will be a special presentation by Professor Tony Binns of the Department of Geology, University Of Otago, who has for some years supported the Kayima Community Primary School in northern Sierra Leone, and has been honoured as a chief of the local village for his humanitarian efforts there. Sierra Leone is one of the poorest counties in the world; it is now suffering from the ravages of Ebola. Professor Binns is hoping to raise money to support the continuation of this vital educational work with African children. All profits from the talk will go to the school, as will all profits from the meal held last month for Open Education and the meal (again provided by Judy Russell) which will be offered at 6pm before Professor Binns' presentation. Everybody in the parish is invited to both the meal and the talk; it is something we can do for children much worse off than we can imagine, an occasion for Christian generosity and compassion. Ring 455 3727 to book a place at the meal which will cost \$15 (more if you are able to give more).

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Secretary of the Otago-Southland Methodist Synod

The Synod is looking for a new secretary because Jenny is finishing up at the end of this year and no-one has yet offered to do the job. It involves attending four meetings a year around the district, taking minutes, emailing them out, and working with the Synod Superintendent to make sure that decisions made by the Synod are communicated to the Connexional Office. The Superintendent helps out a lot so it is not an onerous job. All expenses associated with the job, such as travel, accommodation and stationery are paid for by the Synod. Jenny has managed to do the job with no previous experience of attending Synod but you soon learn on the job. A big plus is that you get to meet people from all around the District and expand horizons beyond your own Parish.

The Law Book describes the role of a Synod Secretary in more formal terms – I can send these to anyone interested or you can check it out on the Methodist Church website at

http://www.methodist.org.nz/administration_division/mcnz_law_book

Any expressions of interest or questions to

Jenny Winter at mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz, phone 478 0491 or

Rachael Masterton at rmasterton@actrix.co.nz, phone 476 4867.

THE FABULOUS FESTIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT welcomes all and will be held at Mornington Church on Saturday the 6th of December commencing at 7.30pm sharp. Calling any talented individuals ready and willing to show their skills. The extraordinary evening will be accompanied by popcorn and ice cream, no cost but donations to the Kayima Community Primary School. Please contact Annabelle or Campbell Weston during the evenings on 454 5600 if you're interested in participating.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

From Arahina: The school holiday programme was the main focus for September. We ended the after school programme with a special afternoon tea and a treasure hunt for the children which was received well. The busy school holiday programme included a trip to the Gasworks Museum where they enjoyed seeing in action and the getting an understanding of the huge machinery, steam escaping, dripping water and little oil brushes constantly greasing the machines. Our guide at the Gasworks Museum, put on a wonderful tour which was very educational and age appropriate. The weather was kind and both days at the Botanic Gardens were sunny and relaxed with a shared picnic, viewing of the bird aviary, and playing at the playground. Singing on the sound shell stage was very popular with the older girls. Our clown day included making a clown hat, having faces painted, making a cone decorated as a clown filled with lollies, and with the help of Kirsty trying out juggling with two or three balls. Lastly the younger children had a water fight at Arahina which proved the most popular activity with squeals of delight and lots of negotiating and tactical play.



METHODIST CONFERENCE - Please pray for the Methodist Conference that will be from the 15th to the 19th of November in Hamilton. May the will of God be done in this Conference as it is in heaven.



Many of us in the religious climate of the 21st century are struggling to sense a creative vision for the future of the church. As congregations have to explore the spending of large sums of money on strengthening church property to satisfy earthquake risk requirements invariably a question will be asked about the future vision that the present community anticipates will be the likely future uses for their buildings. If the present shrinking congregations are going to spend a lot of

money who in the future is going to be around to use or pay for it might be an underlying concern. Aging congregation plus an absence of young people are only the tip of the iceberg. A religious life style with an out of touch intellectual tradition has lead to diminished confidence in the on goingness of the Christian community into the foreseeable future. So how do we sense the future or construct a vision that will generate enthusiasm in the midst of so many competing currents?

Some time ago I remember coming across a wonderful article on 'Why little babies spend so much time dreaming' and the answer given has stuck with me over the years. I will offer the suggested reason as one way of thinking about generating a vision. The author of the article suggested the reason why babies sleep so much when little was that they were spending large amount of their sleep time in dreaming. Why dreaming you may wonder. Well this research article argued that dreaming plays an essential role in maintaining healthy growth. When a little baby is born into a now foreign environment of air plus the requirements to interact with people and things the baby is placed into a situation where it is totally unable to put all the conflicting stimuli into a manageable form for its growth. This is where the dream mechanism comes into play. Dreams are the forum used by the human being to fine tune healthy solutions to dilemmas that will have implications in the Childs unforeseen future.

To reinforce this line of argument in support of how we might find a vision when we are in the midst of conflicting and uncertain time let me quote from Thomas Berry who in his book "The Dream of the Earth" called for a new 'cultural coding', which the editors understood to mean people needed to find new consciousness-shifting images that might animate healthy, creative, sustainable cultures of the future. And he told us exactly where to find such catalysts."

"The new cultural coding that we need must emerge from the source of all such codings, from revelatory vision that comes to us in those special psychic moments, or conditions, that we describe as "Dream".

We are, of course, using this term not only as regards the psychic processes that take place when we are physically asleep, but also as a way of indicating an intuitive, non rational process that occurs when we awaken to the spiritual numinous powers ever present in the phenomenal world about us, powers that possess us in our high creative moments. Poets and artists continually invoke these spirit powers, which function less through words than through symbolic forms.”

This is a lovely thought but it does have some drawbacks. Scientifically minded people don't have much trust in the apparent chaotic nature of the dreaming intuitive mechanism. We as a society prefer to say to people stop dreaming and get on with your work. To take time to help another person value their dream is not part of our cultural practices. In fact it would be truer to say that we as a culture are suspicious of the unknown workings of our inner minds, not easy to see what is really going on and can it be trusted! Yet it may well be in this very area that a resource is available to help us hear and support a vision that can give us inspiration to trust a project that will surprise and delight us and be useful in ways we could never have anticipated by just using reason alone. The Bible signaled that Joseph and Mary listened to a dream that helped them avoid having Jesus killed before his feet could touch the ground. I wonder who is holding the dream that could make a difference for our future as a parish here in Dunedin.

Rod Mitchell