



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

22nd February 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1st March

9.30 am	Mornington	G Abernethy
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	G Abernethy
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MORNINGTON METHODIST FELLOWSHIP - The February Meeting will take place on the 25th at 12 noon - in the Church Lounge/Sunday School room. Please bring along some food to share with each other in our shared meal. The Guest Speaker will be all of us! Please bring along your fancy, interesting, worn, torn apron etc - that you use everyday or just on "special" occasions. Please remember "The Fellowship of the Least Coin". All welcome.

AGENDA FOR BIRD GROUP MEETING 25th Feb Wed 7:30 - Material can be sent to roddieg@xtra.co.nz or posted 19 Northview Crescent Roslyn 9011.

Dates for discussion groups: a time to share interests and items for worship services.

Focus on Birds: Wednesday Feb 25th at Mornington Church 7:30pm

Agenda for Group gathering:

Themes for Bird series... Looking at emergence of Life... Beauty / Freedom / Music.

What does the Bible have to say about birds? How do birds reflect spirituality today? What is lost by wiping out birds?

Sharing Resources: – Poetry / Web sites / Images / Hymns / Creative suggestion / Stories / Other Ideas... Focus and intention is to be able to offer intelligent and exciting worship together.

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER WITH THE DUNEDIN COPTIC ORTHODOX COMMUNITY - In response to the recent tragic news of the martyrdom of 21 Coptic Christians in Libya, an open invitation is extended to gather to pray with members of the Dunedin Coptic Orthodox Community at the **Coptic Orthodox Church (corner of Melville and Carroll Streets)** on Sunday 1 March at 2pm. Father Filemoun El-Baramousy, the Coptic Orthodox Priest in Dunedin is an active member of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers Association. For those who would like to contact Father Filemoun (and his largely tertiary-student congregation) with messages of support and prayer, here are his contact details (He does not have e mail): Father Filemoun El-Baramousy, Coptic Orthodox Church - 64 Melville Street, Dunedin - (H) 4799907; (church) 4790906; (mob) 0274456208; (fax) 4799909

Rev. Anne Thomson - First Church and Rev. Greg Hughson - University Chaplain

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS – Te Haahi Tuuhawiri is giving interested people a chance to explore some of the big questions in life on Sunday evenings during March.

“Quaker Quest” will be held at the Dunedin Quaker Meeting House, 15 Park Street, Dunedin on Sundays 15th, 22nd and 29th March from 7pm-9pm with a supper of soup and pizza.

“Quakers has been a place for seekers for over 350 years, with a commitment to peace, equality, integrity, simplicity and sustainability lived through our choices and actions. We don’t claim to have all the answers, but we encourage each other to live a life with meaning and to seek that of God in all people.” (said Marvin Hubbard, a member of Dunedin Meeting).

The topics will be;

1. 15th March: What or who is God?
2. 22nd March: How do we work for Peace and Equality in a troubled world?
3. 29th March: How do we speak “Truth to power” and finding ways to live a life that respects the environment?

Everyone is warmly invited to attend, and to bring your friends 😊

MORNINGTON’S COLLECTION PLATES TO BE RETIRED?

Noting that the ancient practice of circulating the collection plate as a way of ‘taking up the offering’ is becoming redundant, Mornington leaders have decided to introduce on a month’s trial basis a fixed plate positioned within the church to receive gifts of money. Needless to say, whether the congregation contribute through direct credit (as many now do) or by regular Sunday donations, the church still needs a healthy income to remain financially viable, and will be closely scrutinizing this experiment to see whether the new practice has any impact on the general level of giving. It will commence on 1 March.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
SERVICE TO BE HELD**



Friday 6th March 2015
At Presbyterian Church, Church Street Mosgiel
Time 1.30 pm. All Welcome

This worldwide movement of informed prayer involves people from 170 countries also many denominations, who together observe a common day of prayer each year.

Through World Day of Prayer:
We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our logo has the cross in the centre formed by praying figures from the four corners of the earth. All are joined together within the circle of the world and enfolded in God's Love.



This year, our service is from the BAHAMAS. Join us, to enjoy this happy time, with stories & singing from the Bahamas. "Wear your brightest coloured shirt."

Everyone Welome.

Jesus said to them,
"Do you know what I have done to you?"

THERE WILL BE A WESLEY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after the Communion service on **Sunday March 1st**. A Special **Parish Council** meeting will be held at Wesley hall, **Tuesday 3rd March 7.30pm** to decide our response to the Mission with respect to the sale of our portion of the Wesley site.

EXPLORERS GROUP - The first meeting for the year will be on Sunday 1 March in the Mornington Lounge at 4.30 pm. All interested in exploring faith issues are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday 6 March 7.30pm. This year the service will be held in the St Francis Xavier Church, Benhar St. The service has been written this year by women from the Bahamas and the offering will support projects in Haiti, Costa Rica and New Zealand. All welcome.



**You are warmly invited to our meeting.
 Invite others to join us to create a stronger community.
 Help us make a difference. Get involved.**

Date: 24 February 2015 (Tuesday)
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Dunedin Community House (Opposite Countdown)
Speaker: Grant Cooper (Otago Mental Health Support Trust) Grant will speak about stigma and discrimination especially around mental health. He will also tell us what Otago Mental Health Support Trust offers.

Time is available after Grant's talk to meet up over a cup of tea in a supportive environment.

Everyone welcome. Supper provided.

Email: lifemattersotago@gmail.com

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/718945024850905/>

<http://lifematters.org.nz/>

CORRECTION - Last Sunday's claim that Revs Martin Oh and David Ahn are the only Korean presbyters serving with MCNZ was incorrect. The Rev JooHong Kim has a shared ministry with North Avon Presbyterian Parish in Christchurch. That makes three! My apologies. Ken R

STORY FROM THE MISSION

South Dunedin Community Building (Take 10 Streets): Our Coordinator, Jackie has come across a number of people living in the community with a disability; both intellectual and physical. In the most part this is a well-connected group within the community. In particular Jackie spoke with one lady who was very excited to talk about a dinner with a neighbour that evening. After a long conversation it transpired that every month this lady goes for dinner in 3 different neighbours houses. She really looks forward to these meetings as she finds there is not a lot to do during the day and mostly goes window-shopping. This lady also has casual interactions with all neighbours within a 3 door radius from her home. These are mainly “hello” style relationships but they help her feel safe and a valuable member of her neighbourhood.



One of the neighbours that she calls to for dinner once a month is an elderly couple. This couple plays a key role for others neighbours, having met them on numerous occasions in conversation with neighbours or saying a friendly hello.

There is also a large number of elderly that Jackie has met who've moved to South Dunedin from other parts of Dunedin to be on the Flat area. One lady moved from Opoho and another from Brockville especially to be in walking distance to local services. Many in this group know few neighbours and have stayed in contact with neighbours from previous areas.

DUNEDIN PARISH REVIEW - A regular 5-yearly Parish review will be conducted by Rev Peter Taylor from Invercargill and Rev Alan Webster from Christchurch, on **Tuesday 10 March**. The public part of the review will be held at **Mornington Church, commencing at 7.30**, followed by supper. A questionnaire will be circulated prior to the review: please take the opportunity to answer it and inform the reviewers of your views or observations. The main focus of the review will be on ministry within our parish: everyone is urged to attend.



What happens when you have two strong thought directions for a connections article?

Let me briefly highlight the two ideas and then see where this might take us.

The first line of thinking that was entertaining my mind was associated with 'what type of experience' could be considered religious (Spiritual) or trust worthy of being a message from the source of life? This question has been surfaced as I have been reading Dr Paul Debell's book entitled 'Decoding the Spiritual Messages of Everyday life' with a subtitle 'How Life shows us what we need to know'. However some of the stories he told pushed my boundaries of credibility so I was left excited by the concept of a church full of people decoding spiritual messages but wondering what happens when people at different levels and stages of spiritual maturity seek to come to a common mind on the many different interpretations of the various spiritual messages offered. Or perhaps it doesn't matter so long as people are seeking to buildup the community in love, faith and hope.

This set me on a second line of enquiry namely, so what is 'spiritual' and how might this be understood and shared from within a common faith community. So I turned to a complex book that I read some years ago called 'Integral Spirituality', subtitled 'A startling new role for religion in the modern and postmodern world', by Ken Wilber. I have to confess to being a Wilber nut while well aware that many people have serious reservations about where Wilber is coming from. I have read reviews claiming that he is too 'New age' in his outlook, too complex, too arrogant in his claims. Many of these reviews seemed to me to be attacking the person rather than what he was trying to say. This way of describing his work is meant to quickly dismiss all that he is trying to declare.

Whereas here is a comment from a careful researcher Roger Walsh a professor of psychiatry at the University of California who states in

reference to Ken Wilbers book: “Vast in scope, profound in depth, and far reaching in its implications, Integral Spirituality is, quite simply, the most encompassing account of religion and spirituality available in our time.”

Wilber highlights four different ways of using the word spiritual leading him to declare that the word ‘spiritual’ is a very slippery word indeed. People need to know which of these four different ways they are using the word if communication is going to be intelligent and helpful. Briefly the four ways are (1) People have peak experiences which they claim to be spiritual, a profound dream or experience within nature that moves the person deeply. (2) Like intellectual intelligence people can claim they have a spiritual line of development that is like one of the multi-intelligences, (3) some people use the word spiritual to refer to a particular attitude, like for example being a very loving / forgiving person. (4) Spiritual can be seen as the highest point of moral development. A person who displays compassion for the world rather than just being concern for their own individual personal existence could be seen as having a spiritual concern that is bigger than their own ego or family or religion.

Both books mentioned above have as a core component of what they are sharing, being a need for people to find contemplative practices that assist them in experiencing messages or a spiritual vitality to life that can bring about a difference. In the push and pull of life we will have opportunities to experience deeper structures of life addressing us to be responsible, encouraging us to be co-creators in the unfolding chapters of our life’s journey. What we need are meditative prayer practices that help us grow our spiritual skills of discernment about the many experiences we are encountering in our daily lives.

Rod Mitchell