



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

1st March 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th March

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

LAWN MOWING AT MORNINGTON - The sun is out, light rains cool us, and the grass is growing. We are in need of more people on the Lawn Mowing Roster at Mornington - particularly the months of March, September, December (you can even choose your own month!) - lawn mower, petrol, and earmuffs are provided (kept at Ian Pearce's house on Argyle Street). If you feel this is something you could do to contribute to the running of the church, please contact Alastair or Rebecca Neaves at 488-4372. Many thanks.



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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

Our Y@M group at Mornington are growing up. Many of them have reached the stage when they are going to be making their own decisions about whether or not to come to church. You are invited to come and share with them why YOU come to church. Some questions that you might like to think about are:

- Why do you CHOOSE to come to church?
- If you were moving to a new town, what would you look for in a church?
- If you were unable to attend church for a period, what would sustain you?
- What are the important bits about church for you?
- What is it really all about????

If you would be happy to come and talk to the group please let Ginny know.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Northeast Valley will be held this year on Friday March 6, 7pm at Opoho Presbyterian Church, 50 Signal Hill Road.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kate Mosley, who turns 2 on 2nd 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 aalso 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?"

FAITH THINKING SEMESTER 1 2015

Going Deeper into the Gospel of Luke

Presented by Dr Deborah Bower, Synod of Otago & Southland Church Leadership Support Advisor

Friday April 17th, 7-9pm and Sat April 18th, 9-12.30

Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

Forgiveness, Freedom and Faith: An Exploration of Christian Forgiveness as an experience of Freedom

Presented by Prof David Tombs (Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago)

Fri May 8, 7-9pm – Burns 2 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

Sat May 9, 9am-12.30 - The Gathering Place, Knox Church, George St

Dealing with Conflict: Biblical insights and some skill training

Presented by Rev Helen Martin, Minister, Mosgiel Presbyterian Church

Thursday June 11, 7-9pm; Thursday June 18, 7-9pm; Thursday June 25, 7-9pm

Humanities Common Room (1W9), Arts Building, Albany Street, University of Otago.

Each Course costs \$20.

For further information go to:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/news/otago055227.html>

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 3rd March 1:30pm in the CHURCH when Noeline Wedlock from Diabetes Otago will be speaking to us. All other Mosgiel Women's groups have been invited. As this is part of the SPECIAL PROJECT. Can we please bring extra food. All welcome.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Client-A first engaged in November 2011 presenting with numeracy and literacy issues, domestic violence and a move to the other end of the country. The Mission has been able to support Client-A with referrals to the three different services within.

Client-A never had any formal education, leaving school at 12yrs of age, so literacy and numeracy were self-learned; cooking was identified as a strength. Parenting was an issue as there was no appropriate 'role modelling' from their youth, predominantly in gang related environments.

Client-A is currently attending a Polytechnic course in Hospitality – food and beverage skills; and was able to access the Polytechnic Prospectus, complete the application form, and apply for the necessary benefits to cover the course costs, independently.

This client now has the confidence to step outside of their 'world as they knew it' into the tertiary education system to achieve a career in their chosen field. They tell me they are the first person in 3 generations to go into any study. I asked why? What is the reason for making this change? What are your expected outcomes? It has been a 3 year journey; but with support they have broken the cycle, identified a future for their family, learned that "you can have a career and money without being on the wrong side of the law, change is necessary to grow good happy kids, they don't have to grow up in the wrong environment, it's about choices, you just have to look for people to help you".

Goal – to have a full time job in the hospitality industry, with the view to working up to Management level, have enough money to support the family, to give the kids an opportunity to see what can be achieved.

EXPLORERS GROUP - The Group will meet this afternoon, Sunday 1 March, in the Mornington Lounge at 4.30 pm. All 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.



OBSCENITIES

When I was little boy I ran home one day from primary school and excitedly reported to my mother that one of the older boys had used a naughty word—at least that's what one of the girls had said had happened. I don't remember now what the word was, but I do remember my mother speaking sternly to me and saying that I was never to use that word again. That it wasn't the sort of language good little boys or girls used, and she certainly didn't want to hear it used again in her house.

Much later, and scarcely much wiser or knowledgeable about what 'bad language' might entail, I took a summer job at the blood and bone works at Burnside, where by-products from the nearby abattoir were turned into useful soil dressings for gardeners, I met a group of adult workers whose daily language was 'colourful' beyond my wildest imaginings; whose every second word was 'bloody', repeated so remorselessly that I finally found it really funny to hear them talk. How different from the dry academic discourse of the lectures at university, which never descended to the remotely improper.

Now days in a New Zealand which has effortlessly learned its bad language from television ads and movies, our public discourse matches

our private talk in mindless obscenities casually used. That many of them are drawn from the language of religion goes unnoticed, though I recall once offering a language course for schools on swearing (that national habit), and quickly discovered that although in fact New Zealanders are as foul-mouthed—and as woefully unimaginative in that practice as any—our educational system was bent on pretending that we all spoke in the sanitised, well-mannered tones of BBC television and radio presenters. We have entirely forgotten that the Christian Church once held that swearing of the kind we don't even blink at now was a damnable sin, in the full sense of that adjective.

But we humans continually invent new ways of committing obscenities.

Only a few weeks ago, the ODT excitedly reported that a super yacht had sailed into what it called a super city—Auckland, of course. It seems the yacht is owned by a Russian tycoon who has made his millions from vodka sales (drunkenness is an even bigger social problem in Russia than it is in New Zealand!).

This yacht is reportedly longer than a rugby field. It contains hangers for a helicopter and a submarine, and two helipads. There is an underwater viewing space and stateroom for 24 guests, looked after by 52 crew members. The vessel boasts a seawater swimming pool and three huge spa pools, as well as a cinema and a library. The owner's suite has a 'stateroom' with a Californian king-size bed, a saloon and bar and library with a fireplace. It has a private lift to carry its occupants to an equally private swimming platform. The whole monstrous pleasure boat can be rented for a week at a time for a mere 2.4 million dollars.

But this is just one of the toys of the rich of this world.

Oxfam reports that by next year the world's richest 1% of our planet's population will own more than the total owned by the remaining 99%

of us. Already the rich people of the world possess assets worth nearly 3 million dollars each, while 80% of the world's population own assets worth 3 thousand dollars each. This makes no mention of the millions who are simply below any measurable poverty line. 'The scale of global inequality is quite simply staggering', ran the report, 'and the gap between the richest and the rest is widening fast.'

In our own country that gap is also steadily widening as a business-friendly government virtually ignores child poverty and homelessness, and remorselessly cuts at benefits and slashes spending on social services.

Forget swear words. The real obscenities are elsewhere. And didn't Jesus have some harsh words about Dives ignoring the beggar at his doors, and the problems of getting camels through the eye of a needle.

Colin Gibson