



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

8th March 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15th March

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	Lay Ministry Team
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	Lay Ministry Team
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.



MID-WEEK SERVICES will start again at Maran-atha on Wednesday 18TH March @ 2pm with Holy Communion. Please come and support these people. All Welcome.

PARISH REVIEW FORMS - Please hand in your completed **Parish Review forms** today in the boxes provided. Hilda will collect the boxes and pass them onto the reviewers on Tuesday morning.

TUESDAY 10th MARCH 7.30pm Parish Review Discussion evening.
Venue: Mornington. Every now and again it is worth having a look at how the parish is doing. So often we are caught up in urgent things that we have no time for important ones. Here is a chance to consider the important without the need for other business, have your say and hear the thoughts of others. Everyone welcome! Please come if you can! The reviewers are our Otago-Southland synod superintendent Rev Peter Taylor from Invercargill and Rev Alan Webster who is Canterbury superintendent and a lay training person. There will be a cup of tea afterwards. (For more information Hilda ph487 6226.)

SYNOD: Dunedin was well-represented. It was agreed that we use Camp Columba again for our annual School of Theology as it suits our size and is an easier distance for everyone to travel. We were pleased to have Revs Malu and Luisa Fruevin from Milton Cooperating Parish with us for Friday afternoon. Alan Webster led us on Sat along the theme of "Passing the Flame", and Peter Taylor led the guided meditation day on Sunday. The Methodist Mission Southern's work supporting those who advocate for beneficiaries is so needed and respected that WINZ has set aside a room just for them in Oamaru! (Hilda)



Reminder!

FRIENDLY REMINDER - The deadline for all bulletin notices (including 'Connections' articles) is 12 noon on the Thursday prior to the weekend the notice is to appear. This allows time to prepare and print the bulletin. Notices can be sent in by email, admin@dmm.org.nz or by phoning the Methodist Mission administration office on 466 4600. Many thanks, Katrina.



A WELCOME VISITOR at Mornington Church on recent Sundays has been ADJOA BANSON. Adjoa is from Ghana and has been brought up a Methodist. She has come to Otago University to study physiotherapy and so will be a student here for the duration of her course. Photo shows Adjoa showing the Ghana Methodist Hymn book to Andrea Mosley, a senior physiotherapist, and one of many local practitioners who will be of great support to Adjoa during her time here

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES - The Lenten Studies are Continuing on Wednesday Night at Wesley church, 7pm. Because of the Open Education on Wednesday night of 18th of March at Mornington the Lenten Studies will be changed to Thursday 19th March, same time and venue.

TRAINING COURSE for Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants for Dunedin Hospital. Applications close on 27 March and the course begins on 20 April. Application packs are available from:
Frances O'Connell, administrator,
frances.o'connell@southerndhb.govt.nz.

FOUR MEMBERS of MORNINGTON CHURCH hosted a meeting of the **DUNEDIN INTER-FAITH COUNCIL** at Mornington on March 1. The Council meets every five or six weeks at various venues and covers a very wide range of faith communities. There is a good level of sharing, from sacred texts to spiritual resources and personal stories - all based on the assumption that the overall truth and wisdom of God is greater than any one religious identity has perceived. Photo shows 18 of the 22 who were present for the Mornington meeting, the next of which will be at the Church of Latter Day Saints on the Sunday following Easter.



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

STORY FROM THE MISSION

A young man of just 20 years living with his Godmother and having to report into the Mosgiel Police twice weekly and on curfew

from 7pm to 7am each night. He described how when he was just 18 and living in Wellington he got in with the wrong crowd and felt he had to go along with what they were doing, resulting in finding himself



caught up in witnessing crime. He realised he should have walked away. He realises now that he made the wrong choice and when he met with SAW he was facing a court hearing to determine his future.

He wanted to educate himself by finding out how to get a qualification that would enable him to work once he put all this behind him. He mentioned that it looked bad for him and he might end up in jail, but talked positively about the kind of life he wanted when 'all this was over'. Setting a goal of finding out how to gain a qualification for future employment, he completed all his tasks quickly encouraged by his court hearing date which was just before Christmas.

The court hearing was postponed to last week. He engaged with Arahina Services once again because he had not received any financial assistance the whole time he had been living in Mosgiel. He shifted here to live with his Godmother in November after an accident which crushed his leg and required surgery. He had been supported by his whanau until now. He had contacted WINZ and tried to gain financial assistance but found the list of things he needed to supply was overwhelming. He again set a goal to gain support in his application to WINZ. He worked on each task and currently only has one outstanding to be ready to attend an appointment at WINZ to gain job seeker support. Along the way he realised a tax return had been missed and also set the goal of gaining help to complete this, which is now all done and filed.

His court hearing was finally last week and I had been given permission to talk with his lawyer confirming that he had been working with Arahina Family Support Services and that he would have a client plan as proof of this. My client called later in the day to announce he was thrilled to let me know that he had a good outcome at his hearing. He said that the Judge could see he was trying to change and has a future. He said the Judge was pleased he had been engaging with Arahina Family Support Services and this has made a difference to his outcome. He avoided jail.



A LENTEN REFLECTION

During Lent we have the opportunity to slow down and to reflect on how we are going on our spiritual journey through life. The Christian life is a spiritual response to God's great love for us, a love which we discern to be active in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As the Apostle Paul writes "Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5) The Christian faith, has at its heart a message of liberation from all that tends to hold us back from becoming the people God created us to be. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) continue to provide us with an ethical framework for our lives. We are challenged first and foremost to honour God, and then to honour our parents. We are instructed not to murder, or commit adultery, or steal, or to bear false witness, or to desire what belongs to other people. These are sensible rules! Responding only to rules however, is not the Christian way as Christians are participants with God in a new covenant, able to actually experience having God's law in our minds and written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31: 33) This new covenant, and experiential truth, is affirmed each year in our traditional Methodist Covenant service. It is God's love in Christ which we respond to each and every day and night, not any list of instructions. The love of Christian people for God enables us to "come into the light" so that it may be seen plainly that what we are doing is being lived out in the sight of God, and under the influence of God. (John 3:21). As Christians, we can (potentially at least!) have a sense of being "seen by God" and held and nurtured in our faith by the same God who created us, and formed us in our mother's womb. God's Spirit is at work not only in our individual lives but in the life of the whole Church (and beyond) to ultimately bring healing and restoration to the world God loves, and to the whole of Creation. This process is agonisingly slow, and inevitably continues to involve us in sacrificing some or all of our own comforts. Jesus, in the context of reflection on his own death,

taught that unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24). Jesus was certainly no stranger to suffering.

Last Sunday afternoon I attended and led a prayer at an open service held at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Dunedin. Over 100 people from many Dunedin Churches gathered to support our Coptic Christian brothers and sisters as they continue to grieve deeply for the 21 young Egyptian men who were tragically killed recently by terrorists in Libya. These young men were martyrs. They died as a result of their Christian faith and identity.

During Lent we remember the agony Jesus suffered on the Cross. Retrospectively we can discern that there was some purpose in his suffering and death. John's gospel describes this purpose as Jesus being able, after his death, to "draw all people to himself" (John 12:32). The Church to which we belong would not exist unless Jesus had died, and planted the seed which continues to grow almost 2,000 years later. May Lent 2015 be a time when we allow ourselves to be drawn closer to Jesus, a time when we allow Jesus to deal with whatever needs attention in our lives. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) These "good works" are achieved by intentionally participating in God's ongoing mission to be actively involved in peacemaking, to bring love, encouragement, healing, non-violent conflict resolution, suicide prevention and restoration to others in Jesus' name. How, specifically, will you respond to God's love for you during this Lenten season? As a Church family, how can we best respond in ways which will bring healing, peace and hope to others? Not, I suggest by supporting the sending of NZ troops to Iraq.

Greg Hughson
Ecumenical Chaplain
Otago University