



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

24th May 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31st May

10.00 am	Mornington	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Wesley
10.00 am	Wesley	S Pole/C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

EASTER HAPPENINGS AND CHILD POVERTY - In the latest Open Education session Donald Phillipps gave an enthralling account of the historical location (how small the ancient town of Jerusalem was!) and real people involved in the events leading up to the Crucifixion (like Mary of Magdala, a lone woman venturing through dark streets, defying a curfew, avoiding Roman guards, to reach Jesus' tomb at dawn). Among the 60 or so audience was Ian Bartlett, certainly our oldest and most constant supporter, and the money raised by Judy Russell's pre-session meal and talk will complete a donation of \$1000 dollars to the Mission Hub to support poor families and their children.

PENTECOST SUNDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE tonight at All Saints. The Dunedin Inner City Ministers Association invites all Methodists to celebrate the unity we share in Christ, tonight 7pm at All Saints Anglican Church, Cumberland St. This is one of the very few opportunities available in Dunedin each year for people from all denominations to gather together to worship and enjoy fellowship together. Pentecost Sunday gives us the opportunity to celebrate and to build new bridges of understanding with people we would not otherwise meet. Traditionally, very few Methodists attend this service each year. Might it be different this year? The Preacher tonight will be Rev. Greg Hughson, University Chaplain.

EXPLORERS GROUP - We meet **this Sunday 24th at 4.30 pm** in the Mornington Lounge. A short AGM (and all welcome!) chaired by Siosifa will be followed by a session led by Rod on the role of story in passing on the flame.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The May Meeting will take place on 27 May at 2 p.m. - in the Lounge. Our Guest Speaker will be Liesel Mitchell - Her subject will be - "A Peaceful Clash, dealing with conflict from NZ to South Korea and back". Please remember "The Fellowship of the Least Coin". All welcome to hear this interesting talk.

PROPERTY, FINANCE, AND RESOURCING COMMITTEE will have a meeting on Wednesday 27th May, 7.30pm at the Mission. Members are required to attend.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - The Parish will have a combined service at Wesley Methodist Church on Sunday 31st May, 10am. Please bring a plate for morning tea. We need people to help in the kitchen during the morning tea.

SEEDS OF FAITH: MUSIC FOR THE SOUL

On Sunday 31 May at 2pm in the Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Mark Wilson, Queenstown poet, composer and astonishingly talented performer, will give a concert of songs and piano and instrumental items which he has titled Songs of Faith: Music for the Soul. *Seeds of Faith* is the name of his first collection of hymns and religious songs. Published in 2014, it includes his beautiful Dunstan carol, drawing on his life in Central Otago. That he is totally blind makes his achievements all the more remarkable. Don't miss this outstanding musical event. As he says, 'hear the music, sing along, be prepared to have a good time!' Admission by koha of \$10, and there will be CD recordings of his music (\$20) and word-only books (\$5) for sale.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST - The next Mornington combined service of worship takes place in the Anglican Church, Whitby Street, on Sunday 31 May, at 4pm. Please support this ecumenical activity among Presbyterians, Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists in our area. It will be a busy Sunday, with the combined Parish service being held in the morning at Mornington, a concert by Queenstown Christian poet, composer and performer Mark Wilson at 2pm, and the combined churches' service with the Anglicans at 4pm. Make it a day: remember that's how we used to spend Sundays!

POWER OF PRAYER - Please continue to pray for those who are sick, frail, and isolated in our Parish. In our prayer we are connected with God and also these people.

TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY was a big celebration at a combined Mornington/Glenaven service last Sunday. Led by Rev Greg Hughson, Ecumenical Chaplain at Otago University, and entitled "Walking Beyond the Barriers", the service incorporated a number of streams typical of the wide range of ethnicities and disciplines that make up a modern university. Greg invited five current students, all with recent

associations with Mornington, to answer questions about student life and issues. Among them was Adjoa Banson, a Methodist from Ghana, and a highlight in the service was when the choir sang “Sansum” a hymn from Ghana translated “Wake up, my soul.” Greg spoke movingly of the many facets of chaplaincy life and introduced us to a newcomer to the chaplaincy team, Sherrema Bower, an American, who told us about her remarkable transition from a narrow fundamentalist background to becoming a Quaker here in Dunedin, and with it the sense of freedom that has resulted for her, and the strong desire to serve the community of OU as a chaplain. Finally, our own Cam Weston did some reflection of what it was like to be a student at OU more than just a few years ago. A well focused service thanks Greg. Photos show Chaplains Greg and Sherrema; students Esther Oh, Vince Neaves, Sekonaia Pole, Scott Greaves, Adjoa Banson.



Faith Thinking

June – October 2015

Short Courses jointly offered by the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago and some Dunedin Churches in conjunction with Continuing Education at the University of Otago.



Dealing with Conflict: Biblical insights and some skill training

Presented by Rev Helen Martin, Minister, Mosgiel Presbyterian Church

7-9pm on three Thursdays June 11, 18 and 25.

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

The Protestant Reformation and the Breaking of the Western Church

Associate Professor Tim Cooper, Department of Theology and Religion.

Friday July 31st, 7-9pm and Saturday August 1st, 9-12.30

Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago

A Closer Look at Christian Leadership

Pastor Peter Tate, Senior Pastor at Nations Christian Church

7.00-9.00pm on three Mondays: August 10, 17 and 24.

Nations Christian Church, 334 King Edward Street, South Dunedin

Wrestling with Romans: Part 1 – the Impact and Importance of Romans 1-8 for the church of the 21st Century

Dr Chris Caradus

7.00-9.00pm on three Wednesdays: September 9, 16 and 23

Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago

Suffering and Evil as a Challenge to Faith: Philosophical, Theological and Pastoral Responses

Professor Murray Rae, Department of Theology and Religion.

7.00-9.00pm on three Wednesdays: October 7, 14 and 21

Burns 5 (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...



From Support and Advocacy

A client applied to Work and Income New Zealand (WI) for Job Seeker Assistance. He had managed from October last year on no income with the support of his family and friends. When he got to a place that he realised that his situation was going to be long term, he went along to WI to seek assistance. He was overwhelmed by the requirements he had to provide to WI and to understand why some information was necessary. He engaged with S&A to attain his goal of being prepared to 'Gain support in application to WINZ to gain income'. Using his list from the Caseworker at WI as his tasks he worked through gaining the items required. He had a wobbly moment when he felt there was too much to do and being so overwhelming nearly did not complete his service. There were other important issues happening in his life, and he was disappointed it was taking longer than he expected to sort the preparation for WI. With encouragement about how well he was doing, and positive reinforcement about how he was using the new skills he had learned, he did not let taking longer worry him. When attending his appointment at WI, he was organised, prepared, had increased understanding on why the questions were being asked of him, and had a successful meeting. He said he was really pleased to come to WI today because he had nearly decided that it was too much to do, but now can be financially independent.



A SPACE IN THE HEART

"Ideas are not straight, tidy things, boxed up like birthday presents. Not at all. They are dishevelled things or angry things, or ghosts whispering behind curtains. Sometimes we have to dig deep into the earth to find them. Sometimes they seem to drop from the sky. I often have to wait for feelings to catch up with thinking, or vice versa."

-- Julie Leibrich, *Sanctuary: the discovery of wonder*, Otago University Press, 2015.

At the heart of my friend Julie Leibrich's twelfth book, *Sanctuary*, is an idea so big, so significant, that it takes 226 pages and 172 references to explain – and even then it is not able to be wrapped up, only turned over and marvelled at.

One agreed aspect of the idea of *Sanctuary* is that it means an absence – of fear, activity, danger, demands, violence, of other people and other things. It is a space.

The artwork on the cover of the book is a colourful list, presented in a circular form and called (after a book by Aubrey Menen) “The Space Within the Heart”. Julie's very personal list includes the following elements, each given the dignity of a capital letter, and approximately equal space/weight within the circle: Connecting (hence this article) – Books – Mist – Friends – Wit - Flowers - Silver - Sea - Trees – Laughter – Cats - Poetry - Light – Dark - Bed - Art - Music - Warmth – Colour – Miracles – Mind – Letters – Love - Garden - Beach – Words – Song – Hearts – Piano – Snow - Birds - Paint - Writing – Family - Moors – Candlelight - Shabbos - Hugs - Dreaming - Soil - Kindness - Touch - Soul – Strangers; and at the centre, Mystery.

Against the flower-like variety of colours chosen for each element, the space she leaves for *Sanctuary* looks all the more blank and white. Because the space is not named, it gives the impression that it is open to interpretation. Instead of being empty, it could be full of endless possibilities -- rather like a concept of God, too sacred and fathomless to be wrapped up in a name. The word sanctuary, indeed comes from Latin *sanctus*, meaning holy. So: holy space.

When Julie asked me, along with hundreds of others, to describe an experience they'd had of *sanctuary*, I wrote: “I go to the cathedral, for the cool, peace and quiet. I start to ease into another state, of openness to everything, and acceptance of what comes to me. My invisible muscles relax when I feel safe there. And it is bliss to feel safe,

a kind of escape.” Just being there, I realize, is a kind of meditation, and I am minded of my eldest sister’s insistence that we don’t have to *do* things all the time, we are human *beings*.

The passive activity of meditation is often said to take us to a point of timelessness (except when I have to close up the cathedral and remember the PIN on the burglar alarm). All these things are related: space/place, openness, and the ability to suspend time. Every gardener knows the bliss of standing still in the open air and doing nothing at all, but seeing/hearing insects and birds go about their dizzyingly busy lives. Sanctuary as absence; sanctuary as presence. I found the book fascinating as it laid out our different attitudes to time.

Much of the author’s journal, and many of her poems, have been written while on retreat at the Trappist Monastery at Kopua, in Hawkes Bay, where James K Baxter once lived (along with a friend of John and a cousin of mine).

But churches are not the only places to have the quality of *Sanctuary*. It may be found anywhere -- watching your children, star-gazing, on a walk in the bush, playing the violin, or lying in a bubble-bath with the door locked. The most important insight in the book is that *Sanctuary* is always available to you because it is not defined or limited by any place or context; it is your inner bush / sea / cathedral / universe, *inner space*. You carry it within you, not closed in time, but open to eternity.

The book is richly stocked with the wisdom of a range of writers and visionaries, from Karen Armstrong to the Upanishads, Teresa of Avila to Daniel Barenboim. While my wise sister has been ill in hospital and I’ve been tidying her house, it has been my *Sanctuary*.

– Helen Watson White