



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

9th August 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 16th August

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

PRAYER NEEDS

Everyone needs support. Therefore, for those who need prayer support for whatever reason, please contact the Parish Prayer Convenor on the front page of the Bulletin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Annabelle Wilson, who turns 5 on 12th August!



OPEN EDUCATION: TALKING CHATBUS

On Wednesday 19 August, in the Mornington Methodist Church, at 7.30pm, Open Education brings the creator and director of Chatbus to talk about her wonderful work with troubled children and worried staff. Averil Pierce is a compelling speaker about a counseling service that is unique in New Zealand, as she engages with children at risk in our school system. Sign in for the usual delicious pre-session meal provided by Judy Russell (or ring 455 3727) and bring a friend along. All proceeds go to help keep Chatbus on the road: we would like to raise \$1000 for this project. Will you help us do so?



St John
Here for Life

“A CELEBRATION OF COMPASSION”

St John Dunedin invite you to join them for their Annual Church Parade entitled “A Celebration of Compassion”. This will be a service of thanksgiving for all that St John does in our city. A new Ambulance will be dedicated and information about the breadth of the work of St John will be available. It is to be held at Hope & Sons, 523 Andersons Bay Road, on Sunday 9th August at 2 p.m. As Christians you are invited to show your support for this organisation which has its roots in the Christian faith.

NEED OF COMPUTER

If anyone has an old computer that sits around your house and is not using, but still functions well, please contact Siosifa Pole, 4552923 or 0272412926.



MID-WEEK SERVICE Wednesday 19th August 2pm at Maran-Atha, afternoon tea to follow. All very welcome.

PARISH WORKSHOP ON LEADING WORSHIP

The Dunedin Methodist Parish will host a workshop on Leading Worship in our contemporary world on Saturday the 5th of September. Some people from the Mission Resourcing Unit of our church will facilitate this workshop. All our worship Leaders and Lay Preachers are expected to attend this workshop. An Invitation will extend to other parts of our Synod for those who wish to attend this workshop. More detail of the programme will be put in the bulletin as we draw closer to the date of this workshop.

WORKSHOP WANANGA FONO FAKATAHA BOSE

The Methodist Church and Public Issues is hosting an ecumenical workshop on Church Contributions to Climate Justice 3rd October 2015, in Auckland. Venue to be advised. Parish and church groups are welcome.

The Workshop

Leaders in climate issues will share knowledge of the science, the politics, a Pacific update and New Zealand's position, and theological interpretation

Invited speakers and leaders:

- Rev. Dr Nasili Vaka'uta and Rev. Jione Havea – theology and ethics
- Dr. Adrian Macey, Former Chair of Kyoto negotiations
- Prof. Dave Frame, Climate Scientist

We hope to offer subsidies for travel for people outside Auckland. Please send an indication of interest or inquiries to Betsan for venue and catering purposes. Betsan: [021 388 337](tel:021388337) / betsan@publicquestions.org.nz

STORY FROM THE MISSION...

Little Citizens early learning centre:

The milestones continue to open up dialogue and conversations with

families as we celebrate their children's achievements and work together on future successes where parents are keen and eager to build on their child's knowledge at home also, through this collaboration a child who was struggling at her 4 ½ year milestone to write her name has been working on this not only at centre but actively with mum at home where mum showed me photos on her phone of the writing they have been completing together, conversations that I normally never had with this one particular parent.

Early Years Hub: June was a busy month for the Hub. Firstly with the flooding in South Dunedin: Some of the families who use the Hub were affected and the "Free to a Good Home" tables came in very handy for some . We were also able to supply families with bedding, blankets and in one case a home for some goldfish. Fortunately the Hub wasn't flooded so we were able to be open for people to come and just get a break. Then came the snow and ice which kept many people at home except on Wednesday 17th June when had 34 come along for Music and Movement . The Hub also celebrated Matariki with 60 people coming along for a Hangi Lunch.





FALSE POCKETS, PROFITS AND PROPHETS

Pockets

Some months ago I felt constrained to enter a menswear shop. My old “London Fog” sports coat had been showing signs of age, no doubt after watching too much sports on TV. Even the zip had lost its zip. The closing-down sign on the shop was enticing, but I was still wary. I know of one such shop that makes a habit of closing down. To cut a long sleeve short, I announced a tentative intention to look at sports jackets. Apparently the term was still in use or could be translated. I was shown one that looked rather like a “Dunedin Fog” – most attractive, of course. I didn’t need to look further, other than at the price. I gulped and got out.

It wasn’t until sometime later when I put it on that I discovered that I couldn’t prize open the pockets on either side. In fact, there were *no* pockets – only a little flap where they might have been. Now it was me that was in a flap. I had been fooled into thinking the coat conformed to long-established style. Without the appearance of those worthless flaps I would almost certainly have hesitated, probably to the point of turning down the deal. Any pretense on my part to being immune to fashion had been blown apart.

I had fallen prey to the two great f-words – familiarity and fashion. My only consolation is that the malady appears to be endemic to every member of the human race. Even the most ultra, radical non-conformist is forever subject to the pervasive and persuasive pressure of the familiar and the fashionable. It’s not just me, but us all. Beware of false pockets!

Profits

It took me a little longer to twig to my next step in self-discovery. I had inadvertently (if felicitously) purchased my own funeral shroud. After all, according to that oft quoted but seldom effectual proverb, “there are no pockets in a shroud”. The jacket therefore will suit me fine. But it’s been another reminder of how familiarity and fashion mould our values and behaviour.

Shrouds may have no pockets, but there’s an almost universal drive, at least in First and Second World countries, to accumulating wealth and possessions, and even to conspicuous consumption. Perhaps nothing is more familiar and more fashionable, both individually and collectively, than overvaluing the importance of economic growth. Beware of false profits”!

Prophets

After “false profits” there was no escape from its homophone “false prophets”. And here we have a phrase of biblical proportions. “False prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Mark 13:22). Dare I suggest that if false prophets spared their signs and wonders and simply relied on the familiar and the fashionable they could even hoodwink the elect?

This really is our Achilles’ heel. Whatever presents itself in familiar garb and is likely to attract the approval of those whose style and opinions we accept is all but certain to win us over. It takes more than a casual glance at the flap on the garment to spot the falsehood. One has to lift the flap and check for oneself if there really is a pocket. Few bother. Especially if the prophets are in good company. But it’s possible for even a verse of scripture or a single ruling from the church to constitute false prophesy. So beware of false prophets!

And always be aware of the lure of the two great f-words

Familiarity and fashionableness are highly seductive. They make it difficult to discern the difference between the true and the false. The process is often protracted and topsy-turvy. A couple of examples may

show how two individuals struggled to get to the heart of two of the big issues of our day. Each had to resist the pressures of conformity from among their peers and in their own backgrounds. It took quite some courage to change their minds.

In 1993, Ronald Bailey published *Ecoscam: The False Prophets of Ecological Apocalypse*, applying the phrase to promoters of ecological warming. However, by 2005 he had changed his mind, writing “Anyone still holding onto the idea that there is no global warning ought to hang it up.”

Last week I attended a lecture by David Gushee, a distinguished professor at a prominent Baptist university in the U.S. and co-author of one of the most popular Christian ethics books of the last 25 years. Yet, coming from a deeply conservative background, he is now an ally of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender cause. Last year he published *Changing Our Mind: A Call for Full Acceptance of LGBT Christians in the Church*.

And last Sunday I attended the Dunedin Interfaith Council meeting, this time held in the Otago Mosque. In that setting I had a good opportunity to contemplate that while it pays to be prepared for falsehood in the familiar and the fashionable, it’s just as important to be able to come at things from the opposite direction. We need to be equally open to finding truth in the unfamiliar and in that which in one’s own circumscribed environment has always been seen as unfashionable.

David Kitchingman