



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

13th September 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 20th September

9.30 am	Mornington	Helen Watson White
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	Helen Watson White
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MID -WEEK SERVICE has been cancelled.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - This month's meeting will take place on the 23rd September in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev Ken Russell with more tales to tell about his ramblings in the Parish. Please remember The Fellowship of the Least Coin. All Welcome.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT Sunday 20 September 2.30pm at the Mornington Methodist, featuring early music performed by the Rare Byrds and some beautiful piano music. Cost \$2

ITEMS FOR BIG RED BIN:

Over the next series of services I will be focusing on animals with the following thoughts and reflections.

25th Oct 1st Animal Service – Theme: Animals capacity to love unconditionally

1st Nov 2nd Animal Service – Theme: Saving life and improving relationships. I.e. Dogs in rest homes etc.

Final 15th Nov Final Service – How animals handle death – Can we learn anything from their example.

Please drop ideas and examples of animal behaviour that might illustrate some of the themes above. Many children and adult stories use animals – for example stories like Aesop's fables are centred on the life and personality of animals. Many native cultures and religions use animals as symbols of wisdom. Aboriginal communities in Australia have animals illustrating traditions and wisdom for the next generation. So any insights can be sent to me directly at roddieg@xtra.co.nz or placed in the big red bin at Mornington and/or Glenaven. Many thanks
-Rod

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER PEACE SERVICES at Mornington (9.30) and Glenaven (11-12) will be marking the UN International Day of Peace, held annually around this time. Before the 11am service, morning tea from 10.40; and after 12 noon a pot-luck lunch at Glenaven, open to all. Hot drinks provided - bring a plate of finger-food to share.

World Peace Day is also being celebrated on Sunday 20th, from 11am to 8pm at the Forsyth Barr Stadium. A new group called Peacing Together wanted to "create a place to share music, dance, laughter, culture, knowledge, inspiration and passion." Too much for one day? We reckon you can't have too much peace, or humanity, unity and diversity! -- Helen Watson White

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

On Wednesday 23 September, Open Education brings to Dunedin the Reverend Dr Nasili Vaka'uta, the newly appointed Head of Trinity Theological College, Auckland, to talk about his vision for next generations of ministers and worship leaders. The subject is key for our congregations in our immediate future, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the skills our leaders-to-be will need in this new and challenging age. Dr Nasili talks at Mornington, starting at 7.30pm. The session is prefaced by another delicious Judy Russell meal at 6pm. Ring Judy (455 3727) or sign in at Mornington. A \$5 koha for the talk and \$15 for the meal. Proceeds will go to the current appeal for the Dunedin Women's refuge.

SAVE THE DATE: Save **Saturday October 18th** for a **Parish Games Evening**. There will be table top games, children's games and floor games. More details later. (Hilda)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Liam Bennett who turns 12 on September 18th!

STORY FROM THE MISSION...



From Next Step Training: When Josie started at NST training in February her goal was to “learn about computers”. Her Alnat score is Step 1 for Reading, Step 1 Numeracy & Emerging for Vocabulary. This represents the first rungs of literacy & numeracy. Prior to coming to NST Josie had achieved 12 level 1 credits and 4 level 2 credits dating from 2005. Six months later in August this year Josie has achieved NCES with other members of her class. This is a huge achievement for her.

Josie does have some behaviour issues and it is important for us to keep separate the challenges that Josie has as a learner (extremely low literacy & numeracy) and the challenges she faces as a consequence of her behaviour. As a learner she faces challenges that impact only on herself and her ability to achieve her goals. Her behaviour on the other hand has serious consequences for her fellow students who have complained of not being able to concentrate on their work, of being upset by her rudeness and intimidated by her abuse. Josie has a loud voice and is quick to voice her opinion. She is forthright in her manner and holds her opinions strongly, but is very sensitive to any hint of derision. This has led to verbally abusive altercations with her fellow students. Without the necessary skills or patience to negotiate, Josie will quickly fall back on confronting and even abusive responses to any perceived challenge to her point of view. She draws comfort from routine and can react angrily to any unexpected and from her point of view, unjustified changes. For example Josie has a strong attachment to working at particular computer in the computer suite and finds it difficult to accept any other student sitting in her place.

Stuart has responded by having regular talks with Josie explaining our behavioural expectations and offering support to help her focus on her learning. He has suggested to her that when she feels angry or frustrated to come talk it over with him rather confronting other students. As part of providing support it was important that we had a clear understanding of Josie's behaviours and so we met with an outside professional to seek advice and strategies to implement with Josie.

Some months later there was an incident where Josie was made fun of by another student. Josie had not retaliated in any way, but instead had removed herself from the common room and came upstairs. She was very proud that she had not retaliated and had walked away. She pointed out that this was the good behaviour that we had been asking from her.



Last Thursday, we held the Annual General Meeting of the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board. Here is a modified portion of my annual report. Sincere thanks to Dr George Davis for representing our Methodist District on the Chaplaincy Board for many years. It has been a joy during this last bitterly cold winter, to be able to distribute free Beanies to students on campus. They are made by Geraldine Edwards in Whangarei, who posts them to me in bundles of 10 every few weeks. Our Vice Chancellor, after seeing a story about this in Critic, wrote an official letter of thanks to Geraldine, who has a grandson here at Otago. Perhaps members of our Methodist Parish may like to follow Geraldine's example, and knit beanies or scarves for Otago Students? Let me know!



Distributing free Beanies to grateful recipients in the Union building
☺ July 2015

Every four years I am entitled to one month's study leave to research a special topic. This year therefore, in late June and early July I spent three weeks researching pastoral and theological aspects of Suicide Prevention. For two of these weeks I was based in the Kinder Library at St John's College in Auckland. I plan to present a paper on suicide prevention at a Practical Theology Conference in November.

Late last year and early this year I was part of a group advocating for a new focus on creating a "healthy campus ethos" for Otago University. A proposal went to our Vice Chancellor. Consequently we now have a new Healthy Campus website (see www.otago.ac.nz/healthy-campus). I assisted with preparing the Spiritual health page of this website. I have been appointed by the Vice Chancellor to our new University of Otago Healthy Campus Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr John Adams. I look forward to this new venture. It will be good to address complex issues as academic stress, alcohol abuse and suicide prevention, within the wider context of holistic health. Watch this space!

I greatly enjoyed being part of celebrating 125 years of OUSA, earlier this year. A special dinner in the Staff Club meant that I could meet with many former Presidents, Executive members and life members. A wonderful celebration of all that OUSA has achieved and all that OUSA stands for.

Due to the major landscaping of our central campus area I have been involved with helping consult with families over the need to move four memorial trees. Back in January of this year, I helped lead a blessing ceremony for Sophie Elliott's new memorial tree which is located now in the garden alongside Marama Hall.

This year I have carried on as a member of the Cumberland College council. I have enjoyed attending a number of special events at Cumberland during the year, including presentation of Academic Achievement awards by our Vice Chancellor to some outstanding students.

Seven Saturdays each year are taken up with Graduation celebrations. Our August 2015 Service of thanksgiving was attended by 80 or so

people. It was a joy once again to sit on the stage and see so many fine people graduate, including over 50 PhD's.

I continue to assist with Critical Incident training for University HOD's and other staff, with two training sessions this year in Dunedin and one in Wellington, for staff of our Wellington campus. Whilst in Wellington for this training I also met with Otago Staff and students with a view to establishing a part-time Chaplaincy at our Wellington campus, possibly in 2016 if funding can be arranged.

I continue to be involved with the Dunedin Interfaith Council which meets on the first Sunday afternoon of each month all around Dunedin in different "religious" premises. Our 2015 Chaplaincy and Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group Peace Lecturer is Rabbi Fred Morgan from Melbourne, who delivered his lecture "Pursuing Peace in a Time of Peace and a Time of War" on September 9th.

I continue to prepare a quarterly article for the National Methodist newspaper "Touchstone" on the lectionary readings for the coming month and I continue to participate in monthly training sessions for the Otago Ethical behaviour Network led by our new mediator Jennifer Anderson. I organised a visit of George Abdo (a Palestinian Christian) to campus on 15 May.

Rev Greg Hughson greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz
University Chaplain