



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:	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

4th September 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11th September

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kakala Pole, who turned 9 on September 1st!



RAISE PRAISE! Sunday 11th September, 2pm, Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Terrace. Sing your heart out in praise of God, enjoying your favourite hymns and the music of 'The Choristers'. Afternoon tea provided. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

FAITH THINKING

In September, this course will be held:

Going deeper into the Gospel of Mark

Professor Paul Trebilco, University of Otago

7:00 – 9:00 pm Thursday September 15, 22 and 29

Burns 7 (Albany Street), University of Otago

Each course costs \$20. Please register online at

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation/index.html>

For further information please go to:

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

OPEN EDUCATION: BEHIND BARS

At 7.30pm on Wednesday. 21 September, at Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Open Education welcomes as its speaker Phil McCarthy, National Director of the Prison Fellowship of New Zealand. For 10 years he managed the Department of Correction's national prison system, and now leads an organisation dedicated to the transformation, reconciliation and healing of the lives of New Zealand's 10,000 prisoners and their families, both through in-prison support and community-driven reintegration services. Don't miss this outstanding Christian leader talking about a world we know too little about. Koha \$15. The usual excellent pre-session meal provided by Judy Russell (\$15—ring 4553727); all proceeds to the Syrian refugee families now making new lives in Dunedin.

PASTORAL CARE - I just want to acknowledge all those who offer pastoral care to our needy people in the parish. Without your compassion we wouldn't be able to reach out to these vulnerable people. Please don't hesitate to inform myself and Rod of any major pastoral matters that we should be aware of.

CONNECT. COMMUNICATE. CARE. World Suicide Prevention Day. Saturday Sep 10th 2016 1pm-5pm, Glenroy Auditorium, Dunedin Town Hall.

Our speakers:

Dr Chris Bowden, keynote speaker, is a lecturer in the Victoria University School of Education.

- How we connect with people and why connections are important.
- What we need to communicate to those who are vulnerable and those who have been bereaved.
- What caring is, and how we can show it.

Mr Tyrin Tutaki, University of Otago student, focusing his korero around males, Maori and youth.

Dr Janine Joyce, specialising in spirituality and peaceful transformation.

Dr Brad Strong, Medical Director of Mental Health services, speaking about connection.

Mr Sid Taylor, grieving father speaking about his journey after losing his beloved son to suicide.

There will be a 30 minute open time during which members of the public are invited to share thoughts, poems and reflections. There will also be a love token ceremony, and 567 candles lit in memory of those who have died by suicide during a recent 12 month period. Afternoon tea will be provided, and support will be available during and after the event. The MC will be Rev Greg Hughson. All welcome. For more information please email lifemattersotago@gmail.com or ring Greg on 027 212 1048



RADIO CHURCH

a weekly service presented by Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Assoc
Otago Access Radio 105.4FM & 1575AM and online www.oar.org.nz

8.30am Sunday



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Science Kids: St Bernadettes and Carisbrook Schools have successfully completed Science Kids for Term 2.

The PCOMS results for each school are interesting. The students are asked at the start of the programme, halfway through the programme, and at the end of the programme 'How you feel about your learning in Science'. All the students at St Bernadettes had an increase from start to finish on their score – an average shift of 8.4. At Carisbrook School, 66% of the students had a positive shift from start to finish on their score – an average shift overall of 3.1.

Little Citizens: We have been engaging in our own Kiwi Room Olympics. The children see-saw on the rocking boat as we sing Row Row Row your Boat, our version of rowing. They are learning the physical skills of balance, and social skills of turn taking and waiting. Long Jump involves jumping off our wooden platform, after we count One Two Three... Jump! Again developing physical skills such as balance, coordination and agility, and the social skills of lining up, turn taking and waiting. Shot Put involves throwing a foam block into a bucket, developing motor skills, hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness. This was a very achievable and inclusive sporting event for all our children in the Nursery. The children enjoyed the rowing most, working together in small groups, and with singing accompanying them. We are very aware that learning works best in the Kiwi Room under these conditions and

focus our planning on small group engagement, with lots of singing and music.

Literacy and Numeracy (Corrections): One learner, over the last couple of weeks, was amazed by the level of numeracy he was working on (Fractions, decimals and percentages). He said, “I’m impressed with myself. I’ve never enjoyed this before.” Then he added, “If my missus could see me, she’d be amazed I’m doing this.” This learner has said he does not want to return to prison (it’s his first sentence) and is working hard to improve his numeracy. He is working now on fractions, decimals and percentages (Step 5 on the Place Value progression, even though he scored at Step 3 in his mid-course ALNAT) and really enjoys the classes. Contextualising learning and making progress are great motivators.

If you would like to support the Mission’s work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS SHALL WE FOLLOW?

Last Monday I went for a walk at St Clair beach and as soon as I put my feet on the sand I saw many foot prints of different sizes and shapes and they faced different directions. It immediately prompted me to think of two things, firstly the importance of footprints and secondly, following. In looking at many footprints, I asked to myself a familiar question, “Whose footprints should I follow?” I guess that although

footprints and following are two different aspects, yet they are inseparable. They are inseparable because following happens when there are footprints. Without footprints it is hard to follow or to find direction. But at the same time it is hard to follow when there are so many footprints and especially when they are scattered in different directions. We have so many footprints in the church, in our society, and in the world and we are sometimes confused about which footprints to follow.

We have heard many different voices in church argue about different theologies and styles of worship that we should adopt as a way forward to build a church that might be vibrant and meaningful. We have heard in politics of different voices claiming that their party policies will work for the benefit of all people in Aotearoa. We have heard different voices from leaders of the powerful nations in the world about their strategies to combat terrorism and to create peace. It is interesting to hear their rhetoric, which is not always the same as their actions. Different people have taken a lead in their different pursuits, and have left their footprints expecting people to follow. I was privileged to be present at two events on Wednesday 24th of August, which both focussed on the value of peace. The first one that I attended was the annual Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group and Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Peace Lecture, which was presented by Imam Afroz Ali. The topic of his presentation was, "Between Law and Spirituality: Islam's legal basis for its spirit of peaceful coexistence." He spoke passionately about the value of peace, which was something that we all need to share equally in our diversity. Imam Afroz Ali stressed frequently in his presentation the point that we have a responsibility for building a world for our future generations to live in and enjoy. In other words, we need to leave behind footprints that generations to come can follow which will help them to be able to find life. On the same evening, I rushed to the Mornington church to hear Colin Gibson's presentation on Karl Jenkins, a composer and a conductor. I was impressed with Jenkins' music especially his emphasis on peace and his

insistence against war. Colin summed up his presentation by showing a DVD of Jenkins' performance on stage with his orchestra on "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace." While the orchestra performed there were slides showing in the background of horrible pictures of people suffering during World War I and World War II. As I was enjoying Jenkins' music at the same time watching the devastation effect of war, I asked to myself these questions, "Haven't we learned a lesson from the footprints of tyrants and dictators? When we are going to learn the horror of war before is too late?"

We have a duty for the future generations and the kind of footprints we leave behind is surely the legacy which will determine their future. Some of you might have seen or heard about the poem *Footprints in the sand* and its emphasis. The poem was about a person who had a dream that he was walking along the beach with the Lord. While they were walking, this person noticed that sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only. He complained to the Lord saying, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?" The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you." The image of footprints in this poem reflects care, love, and compassion. It's really portraying an image of a mother's womb where a child is carried, nurtured, and cared for months before he/ she is born. It articulates the nurture of compassion that Imam Afroz Ali constantly referred to in his presentation. The way he defined the word 'compassion' from an Islamic perspective is equivalent to the love and protection provided by a mother's womb. He claimed that to be compassionate we have to look to our own mothers. This claim is true in my own experience as I reflect on my mother's compassion toward us children. Without my mother's compassion I wouldn't be here today. She left with me

footprints of compassion, love, and care that I should follow and leave behind for the generations to come.

Last Sunday we celebrated Youth Sunday. In the two services that I took and the Mosgiel Lay Team in both Mosgiel and Wesley churches, we emphasised the importance of children and young people in our church. They are the present and future of the family, the nation, and the church. If there are no children and young people there will be no family, no nation, and no church. But if there are children and young people we need to be sure what kind of footprints we left behind for them to follow. Jesus invites those who answered his call to discipleship to follow him. In the gospel of Matthew chapter 4 verses 18 to 22, Jesus called four of his disciples and he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." We see in this calling statement the vitality and relevance of 'following and making'. If we follow Jesus, he will make us his followers to live out his compassion, his peace, his love, his justice, and his care. This is the longing of the composer of Hymn WOV 514 and in the last verse he writes, "Lord, let me see your footmarks and in them plant my own; that I may follow boldly, and in your strength alone; O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end; and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend." Do we know whose footprints we follow? So, whenever you have a chance to go for a walk at St Clair beach, reflect carefully on whose footprints you will choose to follow, not only on the beach, but in your life journey.

Siosifa Pole