

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

Presbyters	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile phone	022 350 2263
	Office phone	466 3023
	Office email	parish@mmsouth.org.nz
Parish Stewards	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
Tongan Steward	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
		elaineross@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	477 7377
Mornington		
Parish Office		466 4600
		bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz

PARISH BULLETIN

29 January 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5 February 2023

9.30am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00am	Mosgiel	S Hamill
11.00am	Glenaven	D Poultney

MEETINGS SCHEDULE

- Tuesday 31st January Mornington Leader's Meeting
- Wednesday 1st February Mosgiel Leader's Meeting
- Wednesday 8th February Parish Council

OTAGO TERTIARY CHAPLAINCY TRUST BOARD

PART TIME POSITION - Ecumenical Chaplain Based at the University of Otago (Part time (0.5 FTE), Permanent)

The Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board (OTCTB) is an ecumenical Christian Board responsible for providing Chaplaincy at the University of Otago and at Otago Polytechnic. We are seeking to appoint an Ecumenical Chaplain based primarily at the University of Otago, Dunedin.

The position is for part time (0.5 FTE). The successful applicant will work as part of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy team at the University and Polytechnic.

For further information about the position and a job description please email Hamish Smith (Chair of the Board) at hamish.smith@op.ac.nz

Applications close at noon on 1 February 2023.

ALL AND ANY PHOTOS OF COLIN GIBSON REQUESTED

A memorial service for Colin is planned for later in the year. A slide show illustrating Colin's contribution to the life of the Parish is proposed as part of the event. Could members of all churches check their collections and pass any photos on to Cam Weston at Mornington either digital or physical photos for Cam to scan and add to the photos to be used. Please clearly mark photos with names so they can be returned to the owner. Cam's contact 4545600, 012 995 130, email = weston.dunedin@xtra.co.nz



CELEBRATION OF HARMONY DINNER – 8 FEBRUARY 2023

This celebration is being held on 8 February at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 14 Fenton Crescent, St Clair, Dunedin at 6.30pm. Vegetarian Potluck, bring a vegetarian meal or dessert to share. Full flyer available.



Max Reid served as a Presbyterian Minister for fifteen years in Patea Union Parish, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in

Palmerston North, and at Mairangi and Castor Bays Parish on Auckland's North Shore. A past President of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand, Max was Superintendent of the Dunedin Methodist Mission from 2000-2003 and, for the past twenty years, has worked in various health management positions in Wellington, Christchurch and currently Dunedin. Despite being removed as a 'Minister in Good Standing' by the Presbyterian Church a few years ago - for failure to attend Presbytery meetings - he nonetheless continues to think theologically and retain a semblance of Christian faith.

I sometimes think of it as the best book that I've never read. I literally stumbled upon it in a pile of recently returned texts at Knox College's Hewitson Library during a period of study leave in the early '90s – Sharon Park's *The Critical Years: Young Adults and the Search for Meaning, Faith, and Commitment*. In her Preface, she described faith – wonderfully, powerfully, succinctly – as “meaning-making.”

I never read the book. It was densely academic, and somewhat off-topic in terms of the focus of my study leave. But the concept of faith as meaning-making has stayed with me – challenged me – ever since. It seems to me that the stuff of life that we find hardest to come to terms with is the stuff that, put simply, doesn't make sense. That is what we seem to struggle with the most. And, it also seems to me, that there is a lot of that stuff about at the moment.

As a 'meme' I saw the other day puts it (and, of course, with a nod and a wink to Colin Gibson) ...With all that is disturbing us around the world – from the United States to Ukraine to Iran; let alone what is happening in our own so-called Godzone – there is much that for us to make sense of, to find meaning in the face of. We struggle to look for answers, for truth. But

where, these days, are we to look? When our trust in so many of the leadership roles and institutions we have previously looked to has been shaken to the extent that it has in recent times – when experts compete for credibility with conspiracy theorists – where is truth to be found? Where are answers to be sought? How is meaning to be made? Indeed, is faith – that task of meaning-making – about truth and concrete answers at all?

Macrina Wiederkehr, in her collection of prayers and reflections, *Seasons of your Heart*, challenges us:

“Why do we search so desperately for answers, when a good question holds as much grace?”

A very good question in itself! Each of us will inevitably have different questions arising from our differing experiences of life – and, for that matter, of what we term ‘faith’. Perhaps this is why, in *Philippians*, we are encouraged to “work out our own salvation.” While this aligns with both Park’s notion of meaning-making, and Wiederkehr’s suggestion that ‘grace’ lies as

much in our wrestling with the questions as any answers we may find, surely part of the role of the Church – no more so in these ‘difficult times’ – is to provide a safe and welcoming community within which we may wrestle with our questions together.

While, indeed, we are exhorted to ‘work out our own salvation’, surely this is faith-work best undertaken together. Each Sunday we listen to – and are hopefully challenged and/or comforted by – the wise and informed words of whoever may be preaching that day. But – please God – may we take those words as not so much answers or truth, as rather an invitation to wrestle with our questions, to make meaning and, in doing so, to find, affirm and live our faith. Together – in the name of the One we name as God.

Max Reid