SENIOR MINISTER: Reverend Anne Thomson 477 7548 cell 027 805 4308
FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO
415 Moray Place, Dunedin
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2013

WHAT’S ON DURING JUNE

Mondays 1.30pm Mah Jong - Jean Inam
MONDAY 6.30 pm Youth Group Burns Hall

TEA/COFFEE: Shirley Brown and Grace Zhong

Do the Maths Tour: Bill McKibben
A climate change maths lecture that might just change the world.
Wednesday, 12 June, 7pm Cullphinna Lecture Theatre

Bill McKibben is an author, environmentalist, and activist. In 1988, he wrote The End of Nature, the first book for a common audience about global warming. He is the co-founder and Chairman of the Board at 350.org, an international climate campaign that works in 188 countries around the world. For more information, go to www.billsmckibben.com and www.350.org Entry free; gold coin donation very welcome
Rsvp at http://mckibben.eventbrite.co.nz

SERVICES JUNE 23
10.00am – Morning Worship - Reverend Tokerau Joseph
10am DUTIES: Brian Williscroft (453 1257), Foalima Lemalu ( 453 4210)

DUNDIN NORTH OTAGO RESOURCE GROUP
*The Good News 200 Years On - Preparing for the Evangelistic Opportunities of 2014*
Tuesday 4th June - Caversham Presbyterian Church, Thurl Street, Dunedin
9pm meal programme starts 7.30pm S10 for Dinner
Please book in for dinner with Margaret Forbes margaretbox@hotmail.com or Ph 03 456 4555 by Thursday 30 May 2013

FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO MISSION STATEMENT
"We are striving to become a truly multi-cultural community, providing a warm, creative and affirming home base, enabling us to reach out with the Good News to those working and living in the inner-city and beyond."

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE
During June, the Revised Common Lectionary readings will be used at the 10 am and 2 pm service, and Te Ata as the 12 noon service.

PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT FOOD BANK
Part of our offering each Sunday morning is food for the Food Bank, to support those in need in our community.
With the arrival of winter, soups are always popular, whether canned or packets, instant or soup mixes. Noodles are also in demand. At the moment, there is no tinned spaghetti on the shelves (although plenty of baked beans and tinned fruit).
Teabags and instant coffee are always needed

WEEKLY EVENTS
TUES 11
4.30pm Property Committee

WED 12
6.00pm SESSION

WED 26
7.30pm DEACONS COURT

President Women of Aotearoa NZ

Dunedin Presbyterian Region
The next Presbyterian meeting for 2013 will be held on Tuesday, 25th June in the Nothc Room at First Church of Otago, Moray Place, Dunedin.

Parishes may have some other ‘stories’ to be added. This meeting is open all members of the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa NZ and also to any interested folk who wish to attend.

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SENIOR MINISTER: Reverend Anne Thomson 477 7548 cell 027 805 4308
PART TIME PASTORAL ASSISTANT MINISTER: The Rev John Sinclair (473 9950 or 027 436 9204)
Dear First Church folk,

On Pentecost Sunday evening, First Church hosted a combined youth service with Dunedin Presbyterian youth groups. Rev. Malcolm Gordon, a very talented musician who has just released his third album, was with us to preach and sing. We invited others to bring a ‘talent offering’ as an expression of the Spirit's work among them and gifts to them.

The first mention of the Spirit's work in the Bible is Genesis 1:2: “and a wind/breath/spirit from God was hovering over the face of the waters”. In Hebrew thought, the 'wetans' are a symbol of chaos, and it is as the Spirit moves that order is brought out of chaos. And so it was on Sunday night. I had not read the text message with the songs we would sing, and they all had to be changed depending on what was available. Technology refused to cooperate, so that the service had to begin before we could persuade the computer to talk to the data projector. And yet, the Spirit was moving as we learned a new song, a carol, usually because the words wouldn’t appear; as Scripture was read, and as Malcolm preached and sang; as we prayed; as First Church Youth offered a couple of creative dances, interpreting the songs that they danced to; as a poem was recited and a song was sung. We worshipped in spirit and in truth.

Not all our services are like that. The Sunday after Pentecost the church will be full at 10am as Columba College joins us and we focus on the 1450th anniversary of St Columba's arrival on the island of Iona. There will be much more order, less evidence of chaos, in that service – but the Spirit will be among us then too, moving over the orderliness and over whatever chaos there may be in the lives of those who gather. And all the other Sundays and all the other services, the Spirit is present in our worship, enabling us to worship in spirit and in truth. When all goes according to plan, we may not be as aware of the Spirit’s work among us. But without that, we are noisy gangs and changing cymbals and empty words.

The Spirit of God moves over chaos and over order, Sunday by Sunday, in all the different ways we worship and on the days between Sundays, in all the different ways we live. We cannot predict or dictate the way in which the Spirit will be working.

Have you ever wondered about the bible readings in Church on a Sunday and what version of the bible is actually being read?

The large bible that is carried in by our statusque Beadle, is the ‘Good News’ version. Sometimes, there is a reading that is from ‘The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language.

This version was created by Eugene H Peterson and published in segments from 1993 – 2002. Here are some comparisons to other translations:

Psalm 23: 1-4

New International Version
1. The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.
3. He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.
4. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Kings James Version
1. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, the rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The Message:
1. O GOD my shepherd! I don’t need a thing
2. You have beheaded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.
3. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.
4. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I’m not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd’s crook makes me feel secure

- Of course there are other versions. If you have a computer look it up on Google. It is a very interesting Web site.

BURNS HALL, (behind First Church) 415 MORAY PLACE, DUNEDIN.

The following stalls with the name of the convenor, will be operating. We need your support.
You can contact Nan Rickard 455 6099 or the convenor of the stall, or the Church Office.

Books and Music: Duncan Mathieson: (455 1979) Books, magazines, SHEET music, DVD’s, CD’S, JIG-SAW puzzles.

Cakes: Margaret Mitchell: (471 0355) Donations of butter and sugar would be appreciated, if you are not in a position to bake.

Bric-a-Brac & Clothing: Dorothy Sinclair: (473 9950) Items of interest, clean warm clothing (coats, hats, gloves etc) (hair and beauty products)

Jewellery: Shirley Farquhar: (454 4789) Items of jewellery, watches, clocks, etc.

Pikelets: (yet to be confirmed)

 Produce: Faaiana Lemalu: (453 4210) Vegetables, jams, pickles, fruit.

Tea and Coffee & Soup: (yet to be confirmed) Scones, bread rolls. Soup to be heated and served

Tool Shop: Rev J Sinclair: Any unused tools, mechanical or garden, or wood. Any condition. Tools will be cleaned up and presented for sale.


Samoan Group: Telefoua Vainuapu: (456 3515) Serving ethnic food.

Silent Auction: Brian Williscroft: A silent auction with a few select items (nothing of great value) to give some extra interest.

Weather: YET TO BE CONFIRMED

As this fair is in winter, we will be keeping it within the walls of Burns Hall, with perhaps only a couple of outside tents. If you have any further ideas about what we should have please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Nan Rickard, 455 6099 or email: nanrickard@clear.net.nz

APW NEWS

Sincere thanks to those who gave their time to “set up” the display for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and to all who donated goods for PSO. Foodbank.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY 18 June Lunchtime 12 noon (please note time change)

Marie Sutherland from Super Grapes Organization will be the speakers—
Welcome to anyone interested in this organisation There will be the usual sales table

SIX NEWS from Margaret Currie in Mongolia. “A lovely bundle arrived from First Church in Dunedin God Bless you all!”
Thank you to the dedicated knitters both from First Church and Halfway Bush for your continued support.