

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

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The Interfaith Movement – Growing in Dunedin

When first asked to write an editorial for the Signal I panicked and said no I would need more time. I was given more time. Mmm... I now feel like Charlie Brown... visualise him lying on a hillside with his friends beside him looking up at cloud shapes... Lucy says "Wow I can see Persephone and there's Aristotle and..." Charlie Brown looks sad and says "I thought I saw a horsie and a duckie, but I changed my mind..." That is a little how I feel as I tackle this task.

One thing most of you know of me is that I am interested in the Interfaith movement and some have asked me to explain more of this. So this is my chance, but do realise I tend to think at the level of horsies and duckies not high-level doctrines and abstracts.

As a teenager I believed I would eventually head off overseas and work to convert the world. Training for this, after teaching Science and Biology, came in the form of study at New Zealand Bible College and then Knox College. Way before that however, I saw God at work in the medical interventions of my agnostic father, with this very much affirmed by my deeply spiritual Christian mother. God did not seem to be confined within the limits of my Presbyterianism. I was at university and a member of both the Evangelical Union (EU) and the Student Christian Movement (SCM), when my parents had a sabbatical trip visiting University Student Health Services around the world. When asked what or who had most impressed my father during the trip, he had no hesitation in naming the doctor from a university in Baghdad – a Muslim doctor whose compassion and faith he experienced as being like a torch. It warms me to remember this.

An excellent summary of interfaith endeavours came from Pope Francis as he put it last year when he talked of the Catholic Jubilee of Mercy fostering "an encounter with these religions (Judaism and Islam) and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect and drive out every form of violence and discrimination." (Bull of Indiction of

the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy). These themes come through at a local level in the objectives of the Dunedin Interfaith Council:

- To enjoy friendly respectful relationships with members of different religions and faiths;
- To provide a forum for its members to consult and discuss interfaith matters;
- To promote harmony and cooperation and be an example to the wider community;
- To encourage the elimination of religious prejudice, and
- To promote the universal themes, values, ethics and norms common to all faiths.

Anyone interested in supporting and promoting multi-faith harmony is welcome to be a member or just come to the meetings. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from 2.30 – 4 pm in the meeting area of one of the different faith communities involved. Meetings this year so far have been at the Mornington Methodist Church, the Hare Krishna Temple, with a social time in April at the Buddhist Stupa on the Peninsula and the May meeting at Knox Church. The June meeting will be at the Baha'i Centre, then up to November: the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, the Brahma Kumari Centre, the Al Huda Mosque and the Synagogue.

The meetings begin with a form of dialogue through a sharing of brief readings or comments about a topic such as faith, truth, love, prayer, awareness, healing etc. The body of the meeting is taken up with organising activities such as the gathering during the Week of Prayer for World Peace (last year at the Quaker Meeting House), the celebration during World Interfaith Harmony Week (at the Mormon Church), the Interfaith Service Project (this year involving weeding and planting an olive tree at the Al Huda Mosque) etc. We then share information about up-coming events such as the Islam Awareness Week, open days at the Dhargyey Buddhist Centre, Hare Krishna evenings, International Peace Day, Hiroshima Day, Race Relations Day, Love the Earth climate change vigil, a workshop on Secular Ethics, the Mormon "Helping Hands Day", and many wonderful talks taking place in the town, such as the Otago Muslim

Association and Islamic Women's Council of NZ talk by Zara Faris on "What defines Women's Rights?", the Annual Peace Lecture by Rabbi Fred Morgan "Pursuing Peace in a time of peace and a time of war", and very recently Dave Andrews "The Jihad of Jesus: How Christians and Muslims can work together for peace and justice".

The Council also acts in an advisory/consultative way to the community. At a monthly DCC meeting a member of one of the faith traditions in the Dunedin community offers a prayer at the beginning of the meeting. National Interfaith Forums are held in New Zealand every two years; in Dunedin 2014, Inspector Rakesh Naidoo, a Hindu, the National Strategic Ethnic Advisor with the New Zealand Police and responsible for Interfaith Relations at the Police Training Centre in Upper Hutt gave an enlightening talk of the importance for trainee police to understand different faiths. A song written by Professor Colin Gibson for this Forum has very appropriate words:

1. Hold hands, people of faith, sister and brother, hands of the world reaching out, one to the other. All of us seeking, in our own way, the One to whom we pray.

Chorus: Lotus, Light and Wind and Flame, Spoken Word, unspoken Name, Life and Way, O sacred Sound, Purest Love, our being's Ground, Alpha, Omega, our end, ever present, loving friend!

2. Share minds, people of faith, seek to discover. Minds of the world reaching out. Shall we uncover, all of us seeking in our own way, the Truth for which we pray?
3. Speak souls, people of faith, one to the other, Soul of the world, binding us all each to the other, all of us seeking in our own way your unity this day.

Talking further of this Forum I was captivated by the smiles and openness, in particular from a group of young people (Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Baha'i) speaking about "How faith contributes to personal transformation and the betterment of the world". In terms of young people and their commitment, two delightful young Sikh women came to our last monthly meeting at Knox Church to talk of their Sikh faith. It was a privilege to meet them.

Another privilege for me was to see on Facebook (!) an invitation to my son, Jamie, who has recently been ordained to be a full Theravadan Buddhist monk in a centre south of Perth. In April of this year I noticed a message to him from a Franciscan brother, Francis Mary, about the April interfaith meeting in Perth "I hope you can come, you are such a gift to this multifaith group. Blessings." What a joy to a mother's heart to read this.

"Dialogue" for me might be better expressed as "mucking about together", getting to know people and appreciating our differences. I would like to finish with a comment I quoted in Church earlier this year taken from Tui Motu, the Independent Catholic Magazine (March). The comment was written by a special Opoho person – Simon Rae, who with Marion spent many years in Indonesia in Presbyterian ministry: "Friendships are formed among us, affection grows and we learn that encountering difference can be an opportunity for new understanding".

Websites for further information:

www.dunedininterfaith.net.nz

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1566890406855982/>

www.interfaith.org.nz

Bronwen Strang

General News

We are sorry to say that Peter Grant died on 5th May. His wife, Fay is a loyal member of the parish and is recognised by her Scottish accent. Peter was a lecturer at Otago University. He had a PhD, went to Oxford on a Nuffield Scholarship and studied at Oxford for a year. It was during that time he met and married Fay. There are 6 children and 13 grandchildren, most of whom were at the funeral service on 12th May.

The Opoho Fellowship met on 27th June. The guest speaker was Mrs Sheila Charles who is a writer of poetry similar to that of Pam Ayers. She was witty and rhyming and kept us entertained for a good time. And she says that she has amusing musings on everyday life on Otago Access Radio on Mondays

from 11.00 am for 30 minutes Her radio name is Sheila Shuttlebus. Access Radio is found at 105.4 FM or 1575 AM.

We are glad that Michael Ovens has received permission to proceed with the building of apartments at 97 Filleul Street in the central city. There are 25 one and two bedroom apartments.

What a sale we had at the Fair! The day was brilliant, there were many customers and the results are worth the effort. We know that 27 of our parish were directly involved with running some part of fair on the day and many more behind the scenes. Thank you for your part in this day. And there was plenty of goods left over. Clothing, books, a few plants. At the same time the church was colourful with the work of many artists on show. We hope that those who bought paintings will enjoy them for years to come. The parish benefitted from the sales. A good number of visitors came to enjoy this special time.

On Pentecost Sunday we were encouraged to wear red clothes and some did. It makes for a colour filled sight. And it went with the pulpit fall which was also red. It had an elaborate cross stitched into it and looked amazing. We thank Gisela Andrew for her intricate work on this piece of craftsmanship.

Just in case you had forgotten the details, a reminder of the differing generational names for those born through the latter half of the 20th century:

Boomers 1946 to 1964

Generation X 1965 to 1980

Generation Y 1981 to 1994 or Millenials 1981 to 1998

Generation Z 1995 onward

From a book entitled, "Spilling the Beans" come this quote, "Leave it to God, Clarissa, He has a better imagination than you have" [p.314]

Laurie Williams

2016 Fair

Congratulations everyone – all you who donated, potted, preserved, baked, sorted, set the hall up, arranged, priced, manned stalls, counted the cash, cleared it all up afterwards and then recycled and delivered to the dump!

A special thanks to the food and refreshment providers. They are vital in reviving our customers and sellers and creating the festival atmosphere.

This year's tally came to \$4030. (includes things sold in the days afterwards) Brian's breakdown is:

Stall	Total
Baking	339.30
Plants/Veges/Linen	197.30
Jams/Preserves	512.40
BBQ	186.50
White Elephant	899.70
Toys/Games	200.50
Books	637.20
Morning Tea	108.90
Soup	117.30
Coffee	112.50
Clothes	371.50
	3683.10

Well done and thank you everyone.

Shona and Fiona

The Opoho Art Show

This was the third year of the show and good art work just keeps coming in from our community. Gabrielle finds quirky artists to feature and we invited Pauline Bellamy knowing her big works would look good in our high spots. On the last day 3 of her works sold contributing \$420 in commission. We had 24 artists pleased to have the opportunity to show their work and some 270 visitors came in to enjoy the show, not counting our

congregation on the 2 Sundays. The tally from the Art Show this year was \$1008.

Fiona and Gabrielle

Movie Group: This will be meeting at the home of Simon and Marion Rae, 49 Signal Hill Rd, on Thursday 9th June at 7pm. The movie this month is "**Mandela. Long walk to freedom.**" This tells the extraordinary life story of the South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela. It chronicles his early life, coming of age, education and 27 years' imprisonment before becoming the first democratically elected president of South Africa and working to rebuild the countries once segregated society.

Rangi and Papa, Earth and Sky

Fiona Stirling warmly invites Opoho friends to her exhibition opening on Saturday 11 June at noon at Moray Gallery. The exhibition is entitled Rangi and Papa, Earth and Sky. Marion FAMILTON is exhibiting her ceramic with my paintings. The exhibition runs from Saturday 4 June to Thursday 30 June.

SoulSpace: Come join us for some quiet, individual contemplation in a warm, candle lit church. Sunday 19th June at 7pm. Stay briefly or as long as you like. All welcome. Enquiries Shona ph 4738862 or shonahsomerville@gmail.com

A Visit by Joy Cowley

If you haven't already registered, do think about coming to join us on Saturday the 25th June for a Workshop with Joy. She will be talking about *Coming Home to the Undivided Self* in the morning and *When the Well is Empty* in the afternoon.

Registrations forms are available from Tui Bevin
Email mark.bevin@gmail.com Phone: 03 473 8677.

We often sing these words that Joy wrote as a blessing at the end of Sunday service found in the book Alleluia Aotearoa

May the mystery of God enfold us,
 may the wisdom of God uphold us,
 may the fragrance of God be around us,
 may the brightness of God surround us.

May the wonder of God renew us,
 may the loving of God flow through us,
 may the peace of God deeply move us,
 may the moving of God bring us peace.

Lectionary Readings for June

5 June Pentecost 3 42C.....			
1 Kgs 17: 8-16, (17 24)	PS 146	Gal 1 : 11-24	Luke 7: 11-17
12 June Pentecost 4 43C.....			
1 Kgs 17: 8-16, (17 24)	Ps 5: 1-8	Gal 2: 15-21	Lk 7: 36- 8: 3
19 June Pentecost 5 44 C.....			
1 Kgs 19: 1-4, (5-7 8-15a)	Ps 42 & 43	Gal 3: 23-29	Luke 8: 26-39
26 June Pentecost 6 45C			
2 Kgs 2: 1-2, 6-14	Ps 77: 1-2, 1 20	Gal 5: 1, 13-2	Luke 9: 51-62
3 July Pentecost 7 46C.....			
2 Kgs 5: 1-14	Ps 30	Gal 6: (1-6), 7	Luke 10: 1-11, 1 20

Coming Up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

2 June ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book a Month discussion <i>First Kings</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road
5 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Peter Wishart 11.30 am: Pastoral Care and Community Committee meeting at the back of Church.
9 June ~ Thursday	7 pm: Movie night. " <i>Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom</i> " Signal Hill Road.

12 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship with Quarterly Communion Rev Margaret Garland
15 June ~ Wednesday	6.00 pm: Light meal 6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship: <i>Being Christian in this and Age</i>
16 June ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Parish Council
19 June ~ Sunday	8.30 am: Pastoral Carer's Breakfast meeting: Morrison Lounge 10 am: Worship with baptism of James Beyer: Rev Margaret Garland 7 pm: Soulspace in the Church
20 June ~ Monday	Deadline for the July "Opoho Signal"
22 June ~ Wednesday	2 pm: Fellowship Group in the Morrison Lounge 6.00 pm: Light meal 6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship: <i>Hospitality</i>
25 June ~ Saturday	10 am to 3 pm: Joy Cowley Workshop at Opoho Church
26 June ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Margaret Garland, Joy Cowley and Music Group
29 June ~ Wednesday	6.00 pm: Light meal 6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship. <i>Consent</i>
3 July ~ Sunday	10 am: worship with Holy Communion Rev Margaret Garland
6 July ~ Wednesday	6.00 pm: Light meal 6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship. <i>Finding our way around faith and religion</i>
7 July ~ Thursday	7.30 pm: Bible Book a Month discussion <i>Second Kings</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road
10 July ~ Sunday	10 am: worship. Rev Margaret Garland
13 July ~ Wednesday	6.00 pm: Light meal 6.30 pm: Wednesday Worship with Communion <i>Sanct</i>

Opportunities for Service

Sunday	5-Jun	12-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun	3-Jul	10-Jul
Morning Tea	Cunninghams	Murrays	Tony Parry Fiona Stirling	Marian Weave Young	Jane Bloore Jenny Bunce	Rodda & Hamilton
Door Duty	Somervilles	Gregor Macaulay Matthew Ogle	Abby Smith John Stenhouse	Hamish Spenc Ned Spencer	Mike Garland Jacobs	Jane Bloore Maria Larsen
Readers	John Stenhouse	Andrews	Bevins	Jane Bloore	Gaynor Haig	Mike Garland
Prayers	Andrew Smith		Marian Weave	Abby Smith		Tertius Jacobs
Music	David Murray	Gaynor Haig	Mark Bevin	Music Group	David Murray	Mark Bevin
Flowers	Winter Flowers	Winter Flowers	Winter Flowers	Winter Flowers	Winter Flowers	Winter Flowers
Hall Cleaning	Mulders	Fiona Stirling	Fiona Stirling	Daniel Larsen	Daniel Larsen	Jane Bloore
Church Cleaning	Somervilles	Andrew Smith	Andrew Smith	Daniel Larsen	Daniel Larsen	Jenny Bunce

Thanks to those who responded to my email asking for any preferences you have in the pattern of your rostered duties. There have now been some changes to the roster as originally published and distributed, so please double check the roster above.

I am in the process of preparing the roster from July through to October 2016, and will again make printed copies available once it is completed.

If you have not already done so, please let me know of any dates between now and the end of October, when you know you will not be available.

Andrea Johnston

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The Day of Pentecost from <http://www.livinglutheran.com>

Please have material for July newsletter
to editor by 20 July; marian.weaver@clear.net.nz.