



Toorak Uniting Church

Update: 13 September, 2015



ToorakUC@bigpond.net.au
www.toorak.unitingchurch.org.au

Office: 9829 0300
Minister: 0417 506 338

Wolfgang's Still thinking — "Who do you say that I am?"

The book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus & the Heart of Contemporary Faith" by Marcus Borg came out in 1994. I read it in 2001, and the book spoke to me, it really touched me.

In the first chapter, Marcus shares some of his own journey of faith, how from childhood to adulthood his understanding of Jesus changed, and with it his faith. He describes, how the childhood faith of his Lutheran upbringing collided with the modern worldview he began to understand in adolescence. As a young adult in college and seminary, he understood that the traditions about Jesus were adapted and grew in changing circumstances during the early Christian movement. It became more and more clear to him that the Christian tradition had human (and not divine) origins. Later, Marcus could discover the spirituality of Jesus and his foundational experience of God's spirit. One of Marcus' important conclusions was to see the difference between the Jesus of history and how the gospels and later Christian tradition speak of him.

Marcus' description of his journey resonated with my own. Marcus Borg became an important teacher, mentor, and friend for me. He has given me inspiration, questions, conclusions, and language for my personal quest to grow in my faith experience without leaving my intellectual capacity behind. I am still grieving after his untimely death earlier this year.

I think that my life as a Christian is not so much about believing certain things — checking off a list of doctrines that you "have to believe" as a good Christian — but about a way of living in relationship with the Sacred (God). This relationship challenges me continuously to transformation, it inspires me to grow and mature in my life as a believer and follower of Jesus, and it lets me ask questions about God and neighbor, about life and death.

For me personally, Jesus is the 'Way' (an early name for Christianity) in the 'Kingdom of God' (what the world could be like if God really ruled). Believing in Jesus is for me a way of life, it means to give my heart, my self at the deepest level, to the God of Jesus, whom I meet in the stories and metaphors about Jesus of Nazareth. Being a follower of Jesus includes having 'companions,' a word that means 'someone with whom one shares bread.' As Christians, as disciples of Jesus the Christ, we belong to a community — not only here at Toorak Uniting Church, but also in the whole worldwide church.



Do you have a car that you could spare for a few weeks?



Wolfgang and Liliana are finding it challenging to navigate around Melbourne from East Doncaster with just the one car. If you have a second car that you are not using so frequently, or feel that perhaps you could do without driving for the next few weeks, they would be delighted to be able to borrow it. Please call the office on 9829 0300 if you're able to help out.

2015 Christian Singles Network Conference- 'Enjoy: the Joy of the Lord is my Strength'

A weekend conference for singles of all ages to grow in faith, friendship and fullness of life in Christ as single people. There will be time for fellowship, a choice of workshops, prayerful reflection, live music, praise & worship, small group interaction and a dinner dance on the Saturday night.

17-18 October, Clifton Centre, St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen.

Cost: \$100 (early bird before August 31 \$90). www.trybooking.com/IADB

For more information see csn.coglif.org or email Johanna csnmelbourne@gmail.com

Daydreams and Torments of Love

A romantic literature and musical event dedicated to Frédéric Chopin's 205th anniversary. Featuring Sergei Suetin, pianist. TUC, Sept. 20th at 3.00pm. Call Sergei on 0402 831 304 for details. Tickets at the door: \$25 / \$20 (conc).

MISSING from TUC archives:

Videotape of a Service recorded 3 Sep, 1978, telecast on ABC TV, 11 Feb, 1979. Sadly, the ABC no longer has a copy in its archives either. I am hoping someone might have a videotape of this Service and allow me to borrow it to copy to DVD. If you can help, please contact 9809 0550 or 0429 907 908. Thank you. *David Ross-Smith.*

***** TOILETS *****

While construction is in progress, men are encouraged to use the Kinross loos and women the disabled loos off the Faichney Room.
(Entry via the concrete ramp at the Eastern entrance.)
Renovations should be completed by mid-October.

Attention kitchen users: Please take care with freezing food, gently moving the drawers and ensuring that the freezer is securely shut before you leave. Thank you.

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

ORGAN STUDENTS CONCERT TODAY:

This afternoon at 2pm there is an organ students recital in the church by the Society of organists (Victoria). Both Alec and Robert Barber are taking part. A few students from Warrnambool will be performing via Skype! Please come and support them. The concert is free.



John Macrae Centre's Annual

Spring Dance

Tuesday 22nd September 2015

11.30am-2.30pm

Toorak Uniting Church Hall

603 Toorak Road, Toorak

COMMUNITY EVENT

Featuring: Les Salisbury

Light Lunch Door Prizes Raffle

Entry \$5.00

Bookings: 9829 0320



Strength and Vitality Foundation: Supporting women newly diagnosed with breast cancer
Why do we need emotional Healing?

- Help with dealing with anxiety and depression
- Help your best friend to cope with fear of the future
- Shift emotional awareness from fear to love and healing
- Help women find their emotional strength and freedom

Fundraising event: **Help us build our resource centre in St Kilda supporting emotional healing.** **Where:** Manse Gallery Café, Sunday 13th September, 2.30-4.30pm. **Cost:** \$35. **RSVP 8th September. Limited numbers—booking essential. Contact Michelle Sorensen 0405 040 217. www.strengthandvitalityfoundation.org.au.**



Diary Dates

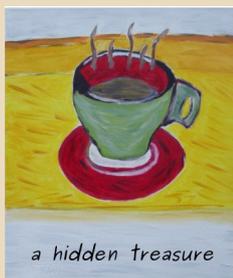
Wed 02 Sep—Sun 25 Oct	Wolfgang Stahlberg on Roach Exchange at TUC
Sun 13 Sep 2.00pm	Organ Students' Concert Church
Mon 14 Sep 10.30am	Drop In Card Day Faichney Room
Tue 15 Sep TBC	Management Team Wettenhall Room
Wed 16 Sep 6.30-9.00pm	PB Handbells Wettenhall Room
Thu 17 Sep 10.00am	Morning Group Faichney Room
Sat 19 Sep 10.00-12.00	PB Handbells Church

A new Congregation Directory is now available from the office. For privacy reasons, **only those whose names appear in the Directory will receive a copy.** Please dispose of your 2014 directory by shredding it. You're welcome to bring it to the office where Kimberly or Catriona can shred it for you.

Time For Fellowship Lunch Mon. 28 Sept, 12-2pm. Topic is "Advice from a male forebear." All welcome.

A small group of men will be having an informal discussion with Wolfgang on Wednesday 16 September from 12 to 2pm. For more information please contact the church office by Monday 14th lunchtime.

Manse Gallery Café will be shut in the September school holidays, Monday September 21 – Friday October 2.



ROACH MINISTERIAL EXCHANGE:

The Roach Exchange provides a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to experience a minister from a different country and tradition. The Messiah Community Church in Denver is well established and well attended with similar worship and activities to TUC. It is a church in the Lutheran tradition and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - a progressive denomination in a traditional environment.

SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER

9am Service – Rev Wal Baker, 10.15am Service – Rev Dr Wolfgang Stahlberg
11.30 am – Coffee with Discussion with Rev Stahlberg, light lunch.

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

10.00am Congregation Morning Group meeting – Welcome to Revs Wolfgang and Liliana Stahlberg with discussion on what led them to the ministry and how their congregation in Denver functions.

ADVANCE NOTICE: WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER,

8am BREAKFAST IN KINROSS with Rev Wolfgang Stahlberg speaking on aspects of American life.