



# Toorak Uniting Church

## Update: 11 October, 2015



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### *Still Thinking — Trinity and the Dance*

It is not something we often think about, but many of the images and symbols in our Christian theology are static; there is no movement. The Biblical image of God as King seated on a throne or even the Son of God represented as a lamb on an altar are not dynamic in as much as there is no movement in these mental pictures. Perhaps it is only the Holy Spirit as "breath" where we see a sense of dynamic movement. The "emergent" church theologian Brian McLaren has suggested that some of the early church fathers saw Christian faith, doctrine and theology in a more dynamic way. He writes in his book, *A Generous Orthodoxy*:

*The early church leaders described the Trinity using the term ὁ ἀἰώνιος ἁρμονικός χορός - perichoresis (peri-circle resis-dance): The Trinity was an eternal dance of the Father, Son and Spirit sharing mutual love, honour, happiness, joy and respect... God's act of creation means that God is inviting more and more beings into the eternal dance of joy. Sin means that people are stepping out of the dance... stomping on feet instead of moving with grace, rhythm and reverence Then in Jesus, God enters creation to restore the rhythm and beauty again.*

Movement is essential to life. We know that all of life is moving forward into a future. But the movement is not a march to the beat of a drum. Nor is it just a meaningless stroll; it is the dynamic dance of life evolving, growing, shaping and being reshaped. And like a dance the movement is forward and backward; inward and outward; around and about. But most importantly life and faith as a dance finds its meaning in the moment and in the movement not in its destination. The philosopher Alan Watts says in relation to meditation and prayer and by implication life itself:

*In this respect it's unlike almost all other things we do except perhaps making music and dancing. When we make music we don't do it in order to reach a certain point, such as the end of the composition. If that were the purpose of music then obviously the fastest player would be the best. Also when we are dancing we are not aiming to arrive at a particular place on the floor as in a journey. When we dance, the journey itself is the point, and when we play music the playing itself is the point...*

Some of our theological ideas and concepts have tended to calcify over the last two thousand years. The notion that God is the dynamic life-giving and evolving presence of love in us and the universe is captured more in the image of a dance than the static picture of three persons seated together in a heavenly realm. It was

the song writer Sydney Carter who caught a vision of this in his song from the 1960s *Lord of the Dance*. The chorus goes:

*Dance then, wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!*

As Brian McLaren suggests we are all invited to this great dance of life which is led by the one who can bring beauty, rhythm and joy into our lives, because that is the life of God in our midst.

*Christopher*

**New conversation series with Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Stahlberg:**

Please join us on Tuesdays 13 & 20 October at 10.00-11.30am for "Conversations with Wolfgang" in the Faichney Room.  
Queries: ring Isobel Negri on 9882 2117



**MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

There will be a meeting of the congregation on Sunday 1 November after the 10.15 service. The agenda will comprise the budget for 2016, appointment of the auditor and of representatives to Presbytery. The budget will be available in advance of the meeting.

**In our Thoughts and Prayers:**

The family and friends of Rev Alan Crawford, Minister of this Church 1965-1970, following his recent death. His funeral was held on Friday, 9th Oct.

**\*\*\* TOILET UPDATE \*\*\***

*The toilets will become available during the course of next week!!!  
Some minor finishes have been deferred until our architect returns from the UK in the week commencing Monday 19 October.*

**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.

# Toorak Spring

Virginia Davey Concert Series 2015



*Lady White Organ Recital*

*Dong-ill Shin (South Korea)*

**2pm, Sunday 18th October 2015**

**Toorak Uniting Church**

603 Toorak Road, Toorak 3142

Tickets: \$30, \$25 Admission free for children under 16.  
Book online to avoid the queue: [trybooking.com/  
toorak.unitingchurch.org.au](http://trybooking.com/toorak.unitingchurch.org.au)

Winner of the 20th Grand Prix de Chartres International Organ Competition (France), Dong-ill Shin has been hailed as "one of the world's most promising talents of his generation". He is also a prize winner of the Musashino-Tokyo International Organ Competition (Japan), Ciurlionis International Piano and Organ Competition (Lithuania), Prague Spring International Music Festival and Competition (Czech Republic), and the St. Albans International Organ Competition (UK). Dong-ill served as Adjunct Professor of Organ at Texas Wesleyan University. Recently he moved back to his native South Korea to take over the position as Professor of organ at Yonsei University, Seoul.



## **Morning Group**

On Thursday 15 October, Christy Faulks will be updating us on SOSK, her charity in Kenya. Revs.

Wolfgang and Liliana Stahlberg will also be there. 10.00am, followed by lunch. All welcome.



## *Diary Dates*

Wed 02 Sep—Sun 25 Oct	Wolfgang Stahlberg on Roach Exchange at TUC
Mon 12 Oct 10.30am	Drop in Card Day Faichney Room
Tue 13 Oct 10.00am	“Conversation with Wolfgang” Faichney Room
Wed 14 Oct 6.30/7.30pm	PB Handbell Choir/Quartet Wettenhall Room
Thu 15 Oct 10.00am	Morning Group AGM Faichney Room
Thu 15 Oct 12.00pm	Morning Group Luncheon Faichney Room
Thu 15 Oct 7.00pm	Dance Class Formal Hall Complex
Sun 18 Oct 11.30am	coffee & discussion Faichney Room
Sun 18 Oct 2.00pm	V Davey concert: organ Church
Tue 20 Oct 10.00am	“Conversation with Wolfgang” Faichney Room
Tue 20 Oct 7.30pm	Management Team Wettenhall Room
Wed 21 Oct 6.30/7.30pm	PB Handbell Choir/Quartet Wettenhall Room
Sun 25 Oct 11.30am	Stahlbergs farewell morning tea Faichney Room
Mon 26 Oct 12.00pm	Time for Fellowship lunch Faichney Room
Wed 28 Oct 6.30/7.30pm	PB Handbell Choir/Quartet Wettenhall Room
Thu 29 Oct 10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity St John’s
Sun 01 Nov 11.15am	Meeting of the Congregation Church
Sun 08 Nov 2.00pm	V Davey concert: flute duo Church

### **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 - a progressive denomination in a traditional environment.

### **SUNDAYS AFTER THE 10.15am SERVICE**

11.30 am – Coffee and Discussion with Rev Dr Wolfgang Stahlberg.

### **Time For Fellowship Lunch**

Monday 26 October,  
12-2pm. Topic is “Sheep”.  
All welcome.

### **Church Fundraising Stall**

Sunday 15 November 9.30-12.00.  
Donations of cakes and produce  
**essential!**

Contact Lyn McA. or Lenore N.