



Toorak Uniting Church

Update: 5 June 2016



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Re – thinking: Compassion – Christopher Page

I have had many invitations in my life. They have been to parties, weddings, dinners and a host of other occasions. Most often an invitation comes as an opportunity to gather with friends or to experience a time with new acquaintances who may later become friends. Yes, there are times when one is invited to a gathering that one must endure. But surprisingly, those occasions can turn out to be times of real fun and joy.

I always felt that if you are invited to a gathering or celebration that you should go! It may not be what you would want, but it can be the thing that you need. When I was the interim Minister at Coburg Baptist Church some years ago, I was invited by our Lebanese neighbours to celebrate the baptism of their daughter. I went and it was a wonderful joyful occasion. They were Maronite Christians and while they had no time for the Lebanese Muslims who baked the pita bread at the end of our street, they were nevertheless caring and generous people. I was the only Anglo-Saxon in a sea of new Lebanese immigrants but they made every effort to make me feel welcome. That experience helped me see how important true hospitality is. To be welcomed by strangers and to sense their kindness and care is to understand one of our great human treasures.

Hospitality, welcome, and invitation are central to our Christian faith. In fact, it is all based on invitation. From Psalm 34 "Taste and see that the Lord is good," to Jesus words in Matthew's gospel, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest", the scriptures give a picture a God's invitation to all humanity to know new life. And it is an invitation and not a command.

The Religious Separatist movement in the 17th and 18th century had a strong commitment to the principle that there should be no compulsion toward religion. So in matters of faith the individual was not to be coerced or compelled to believe. (Unfortunately they could be a joyless lot!) But the importance was that faith and belief should be exercised in the context of freedom of conscience and offered by invitation so that the Christian way is an experience of joyful acceptance and not religious or state compulsion.

Like all invitations one must respond either negatively, "I am sorry but I have another engagement at that time." Or positively, "I would be delighted, can I bring something?" So too the invitation that comes from God's Spirit through the life and message of Jesus is an invitation to accept or reject. And while those of us who have embraced the Christian faith may think that everyone should have what we have, all we can do is offer an invitation with a sense of joy "to come, taste and see that the Lord is good."

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE – ELECTION DAY FAIR 2 JULY 2016

Michael Kenihan and Jon Sennitt have preparations underway to ensure that once again our Fair is a great success both in terms of an opportunity to welcome thousands of people to TUC and to raise funds.

Stalls and Stall Co-ordinators

BRIC A BRAC	Lenore Newnham	9509 0496 newnham.brian@gmail.com
CRAFT & SEWING	Nina Mumford	0422 228 416 nina.mumford@optusnet.com.au
CAKES & PRE-SERVES	Lyn McAllister	9822 2832
2 ND HAND BOOKS, CD'S, DVD'S	Stan Laughter	0427 401 299 stanlaughter@acslink.net.au
SAUSAGE SIZZLE	Jon Sennitt Michael Kenihan	0478 809 678 jon.sennitt@gmail.com 0412 885 896 michael.kenihan@lifecare.com.au
MANSE GALLERY CAFE	Raz Psonis	9829 0341 meetatmanse@gmail.com

Donations

BRIC A BRAC	Please deliver to the office during office hours prior to 2 July or contact Lenore to make alternate arrangements.
CRAFT & SEWING	Please deliver to the office during office hours prior to 2 July or contact Nina to make alternate arrangements.
CAKES & PRESERVES	Please deliver to the stall on the morning of 2 July or contact Lyn to make alternate arrangements. Please ensure all donations are labelled with ingredients.
2 ND HAND BOOKS, CD'S, DVD'S	Hard backs and paper backs accepted. Books published in the last 15 years. CDs & DVDs in original covers/cases. Please use boxes that can be handled easily by one person Deliver to the office during office hours prior to July 1st or contact Stan to make alternate arrangements.

Donations outside of office hours can be placed in the kitchenette next to the Wettenhall Room.

Help Needed

We are looking for helpers to assist on the Bric a Brac and Sewing Stalls. Please contact Lenore and Nina if you can assist on 2 July.



We are looking to borrow large umbrellas to shield the stalls and out-door furniture and umbrellas as weather permitting, we will set up tables and chairs on the lawn. Please contact Michael or Jon as soon as possible if you can assist.

We are looking for helpers to assist in packing away the cakes, bric a brac, craft and 2nd hand stalls from 3pm – 5 pm on 2 July. Please contact Michael or Jon as soon as possible if you can assist.

Election Day Cakes, Jams & Produce Stall

Please start thinking about what you can make, bake or pick for the stall. Small chocolate orange or fruit cakes are much in demand – also shortbread and loaves. Gluten free goods are in demand, also lemons and herbs.

NOTE: All items are required by OH&S to be well-sealed and have all ingredients listed on the label, with the initials of the maker.

We have pre-made labels which you can collect from the office or Lyn.

If you have any queries about anything including pricing, contact Lyn McAlister on 9822 2832.



In our thoughts and prayers:
Lucy Lewis, facing hip surgery this week.



TUC Church Library

The newly reactivated Church lending library is on a table in the Faichney Room this morning. Please borrow any you would like to read and record details in the exercise book. The suggested borrowing period is 2 weeks.



Diary Dates

Wed 08 Jun	6.30/7.45	Hand Bell rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu 09 Jun	7.45pm	Toorak Ecumenical Council	St John's
Mon 13 Jun		Office Closed for Queen's Birthday public holiday	
Tue 14 Jun	4.30pm	Management Team	Wettenhall Room
Wed 15 Jun	6.30/7.45	Hand Bell rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu 16 Jun	10.00am	Morning Group	Faichney Room
Mon 20 Jun	10.30am	Drop in card day	Faichney Room
Tue 21 June	7.30pm	Finance Committee	Wettenhall Room
Wed 22 Jun	6.30/7.45	Hand Bell rehearsal	Wettenhall Room
Thu 23 Jun	10.30-12	Clyde Old Girls' Jumble Sale	Hall
Sun 26 Jun	10.15am	Whole Church Family service and lunch	
Mon 27 Jun	11.00am	Fellowship Morning Coffee	Faichney Room
Thu 30 Jun	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church
Sat 02 Jul	All day!	FEDERAL ELECTION & TUC FAIR	
Thu 11 Aug	7.45pm	Toorak Ecumenical Council	TUC

Melbourne Dickens Fellowship

Inc No A0028719W

3rd Wed of the month, Mar-Nov

2nd Wed in Dec 7.45pm



The Faichney Room
Toorak Uniting Church
603 Toorak Rd, Toorak

03 9836 0659

www.dickens.asn.au



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.