



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 16 October 2016

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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



Still thinking — *Into the future* *Christopher Page*

“Fear brings out the basest instincts,” writes British political scientist Sue Goss, “and narrows our sense of belonging to self-preservation.”

There is much fear in what the future of the church will look like in Australia in the next twenty-five years. Fear that it will not survive as an institution; fear that we will lose the best that the church has offered society; fear that our children and grandchildren will not have the life-giving experiences the church gave us as we were growing up. And the list could go on.

Fear, as Sue Goss suggests is often expressed by “circling the wagons” or clinging to what remains, with a commitment to self-preservation. Fear is difficult to live with. So we often reframe it into resignation, despair or anger at the world around us and even anger towards ourselves.

But fear will never lead us into the mystery of the future. Only courage, hope, faith and innovation will achieve that. Perhaps that’s why we have congregational meetings like today. Not just to approve next year’s budget, but to say, “2017 will be a year of fearlessness and we will strive for the most important goal of all and that is to live and share the Good News that our community and society so desperately needs. And by the way we need some money to do that!”

Self-preservation for the church can only be a stop gap measure. It will eventually degenerate into survival, self-absorption and then finally death. They are strong words. On the other hand an organization or an institution that seeks a better way, and has the courage not to be haunted by the past or daunted by the future can experience remarkable things. Ahh! But will they be the things we expect? Probably and hopefully not. Our vision is too narrow and dominated far too much by what has been. Therefore we are blind to what could be. So if there is an answer for me it lies in surrender; a word often used to describe defeat.

But by surrender I mean saying yes to what is; accepting reality. Then the transformation begins. As Eckhart Tolle states,

“Always say “yes” to the present moment. What could be more futile, more insane, than to create inner resistance to what already is? what could be

*more insane than to oppose life itself, which is now and always now?
Surrender to what is. Say "yes" to life — and see how life suddenly starts
working for you rather than against you."*

And from last week's sermon. "For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!" ~Dag Hammarskjöld



13 November, 10.15am

Whole Church Family **Grandparents / kids service** and special morning tea.

Please bring a small plate of sweet treats to share.

Tell your friends, everyone's welcome!

In our thoughts and prayers: Milton Cameron, his mother, brothers, and family following the death of Milton's father, Rex.

Morning Group meets next on 20 October at 10am. Barbara Sawyer will be speaking about her great-grandfather's "ladies lingerie shop" which was established in Chapel St in the 1800s. Barbara will bring her collection of treasures left from the shop!

Toorak Ecumenical Op-Shop now at 1a Carters Avenue, Toorak. Ph. 9827 3172.

Fellowship Morning Coffee Monday 31 Oct. at 10.30am, in the Faichney Room.
Discussion: "Childhood Holidays"

What's On at Kinross Arts Centre

Birds of the Air - Portraits in Feathers by Julie Edgar
6-28 October 2016 Featuring wood block prints, drawings,
bronze and stone sculptures inspired by Australian birdlife.

Birdsong

Sun 23 Oct, 2pm - 3pm. \$20 Adults; \$15 Concession; Children Free.

Performance by Jacqui Rutten and Livia Judge

Save the Date:

Advent House Opening: Friday 2 December, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Celebrate Advent with an art and garden tour, gourmet afternoon tea and time to mingle with friends and guests at this special event.

\$50 per ticket. All funds assist 2017 outreach and creative programs at Kinross.



The Spring Stall raised \$678.20! Many thanks to all who baked, brought and helped out, and to Lenore and Lyn for organising it!

CHURCH BREAKFAST in Kinross House. Tuesday 25 October 2016 at 8:00am. DANIEL McOWAN, OAM will speak on "POPULARISM AND ITS PLACE IN THE ARTS". Daniel is an accomplished curator and gallery director, who has had a wide influence of arts development, especially in regional Victoria. From 1988-2015 he was Director of the Hamilton Art Gallery which has a collection worth \$20 million with 8,000 objects. He was awarded an OAM for service to the visual arts through administrative roles. This is our final Breakfast for 2016. We look forward to welcoming our regular supporters and others interested in the arts. Please book early through the TUC Office. \$20 donation



MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

A meeting of the congregation will be held **TODAY, 16th October 2016, immediately after the 10.15am service.**

The agenda items will comprise the adoption of the budget for 2017, re-appointing Mr Peter Corrigan as auditor, and to appoint TUC representatives on Presbytery. Mrs Patricia Begg and Mrs Alison Legge are willing to serve again in this capacity.

Copies of the budget and explanatory notes are available from the rear of the church.

A couple of friendly reminders:

Users of **church property** (including rooms, tables, chairs, crockery, PA etc) must make arrangements through the Office. This also includes any requests of James please. This is especially important for managing multiple events on the church property, and critical at busy times in the TUC calendar.

The cut-off time for **notices** for Update and the Orders of Service is Thursday at 1:00pm. Please send all contributions via email to office@toorakuc.org.au .

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. *Kimberly, Catriona & James*



We gratefully acknowledge the recent gift of \$1,000 from the Estate of Joyce Hill, received with instructions to spend the money on capital expenditure around the Toorak Uniting Church grounds.

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.

Diary Dates

Sun	16 Oct	11.15am	Congregation Meeting	Church
Wed	19 Oct	6-8pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	20 Oct	10am	Morning Group	Faichney Room
Sun	23 Oct	2.00pm	Birdsong concert	Kinross
Tue	25 Oct	8.00am	Breakfast with Daniel McOwan OAM	Kinross
Wed	26 Oct	6-8pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Thu	27 Oct	10am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Swedish Church
Sun	30 Oct	10.15am	Baptism of Harry Packham	Church
Mon	31 Oct	10.30am	Fellowship Morning Coffee	Faichney Room
Tue	01 Nov		Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – Office closed	
Wed	02 Nov	6-8pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Sun	13 Nov	10.15am	Grandparents/kids whole church family service	
Sat	26 Nov	10-12.30	TBC. Possible retreat “Seeing Advent with new eyes”	
Sun	27 Nov	9 & 10.15	Advent 1	Church
Fri	02 Dec	2.30-4.30	Kinross Advent House Opening	Beggs home
Sun	04 Dec	9 & 10.15	Advent 2	Church
Sun	11 Dec	9 & 10.15	Advent 3 & Communion (date change)	Church
Sun	18 Dec	9 & 10.15	Lessons and Carols service	Church
Sat	24 Dec	6pm	Family Carols in the Courtyard	Courtyard
Sat	24 Dec	8pm	Australian Christmas Carols Service	Church
Sun	25 Dec	10.00am	TBC Christmas Day Service	Church

Courtyard Rejuvenation

The Gardening Committee is continuing with the planned rejuvenation of the courtyard as an area that is inviting and comfortable to use for coffee after Sunday Worship and for gatherings throughout the week. Now the weather is finally warming up the Committee seeks donations to enable the acquisition of suitable furniture and plants to complement the new landscaping. The Gardening Committee will be most grateful for your support to create this special outdoor space for the enjoyment of our TUC community. Donations may be forwarded to Pamela Wilson, Nina Mumford/Jon Sennitt or the TUC Office. With our Thanks.



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Kevin Bowyer

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@ 7.30pm

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