



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 13 November 2016

office@toorakuc.org.au
www.toorakuc.org.au

Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



Still Thinking – Children’s Prayers (well maybe)– Christopher Page

The following prayers are reported to be from children. Many contain that wonderful sense of naivety and yet the truth about life. Children who are loved and nurtured, live in an enchanted world where anything is possible and all is well. So they tend to be imaginative and creative in their conversations with adults. It is only when we respond in disbelief or with alternative explanations that they begin the journey of leaving the enchanted garden that they have lived in since birth. Sadly, it is a journey they must take if they are to mature into adulthood. But hopefully they (we) don’t completely lose the imaginative simplicity of that enchanted world.

Sometime ago, my four year old grandson was visiting with us. He became intrigued with the coffee table book we had on Australian animals. What captured his imagination were the pictures of salt water crocodiles. Later that day he was with Anne on our deck looking out over the treed and bushy reserve opposite the house. He said to Anne, “There’s a crocodile down there in the bush.” “Really, well let’s go and find him.” exclaimed Anne. “No we can’t,” he replied, “Why not,” said Anne. “Because he’s asleep.” So he had to confront his own imagination and find a way reconcile it with reality.

Here are some ways in which children imagine God, whom they have heard about in church or Sunday school or from their parents and friends. Of course it is not only children who have to integrate life’s mystery with their own experience, we adults also have to do it.

Dear God, In Sunday School they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on vacation?

Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.

Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday.

Dear God, Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have now?

Dear God, What does it mean you are a Jealous God? I thought you had everything.

Dear God, It must be super hard to love all the people in the world, especially my brother. I don't know how you do it.

Dear God, I went to this wedding and they were kissing right there in church. Is that OK?

Dear Lord, Do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does?

Dear Lord, Is Reverend Dan a friend of yours or do you just know him through the business?

Christopher

Morning Group - Thursday 17 November at 10.00am in the Faichney Room.
Margaret Billson will speak on European Christmas Markets.

Food for Friends Dec. 2016—A Toorak Churches' Ecumenical Community Project

This year's "Food for Friends" appeal takes place from Fri. Dec. 2 - Sun. Dec. 11, and volunteers will attend the Hawksburn Safeway and Toorak Village Woolworths supermarkets to accept donated grocery items purchased by supermarket customers. The appeal usually collects over \$40,000 worth of groceries, which are then distributed to front-line charities such as Uniting Church Connections.

The 10-day appeal is divided into two-hour shifts with two volunteers per shift. We would very much appreciate your help, if you could volunteer your time for one or more of the following shifts:

Woolworths Toorak Village

Fri 2 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sun 4 Dec			12pm -2pm	2pm - 4pm	4pm - 6pm	6pm - 8pm
Wed 7 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sat 10 Dec			1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	

Safeway Hawksburn

Sat 3 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm				
Mon 4 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Thu 8 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sat 10 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm				

We are also looking for drivers to transport donated groceries from the Hawksburn supermarket to TUC. Goods are transported at 12:00pm, 4:00pm and before the end of the day's collecting period.

Please add your name to the sign up board outside the church or contact me directly.

I look forward very much to hearing from you,

Barbara McKinnon

Ph: 9885 3031 or 0405 987 890 | Email: barbara.mckinnon@bigpond.com |
21 Hazeldine Road, Glen Iris 3146



A very warm welcome to our Grandparents/Grandkids day!

This morning's service will be followed by a special morning tea in the Faichney Room. Please join us!

Many thanks to Barbara McKinnon and all those who contributed food.

Half day retreat at TUC: On Saturday, November 26 beginning at 9:30am with refreshments, then from 10am until 12:30pm there will be a reflection and discussion on the topic, "Seeing Advent with new eyes." This is an opportunity to hear the latest thoughts on how Christmas and this season of spiritual preparation before Christmas can impact on our lives and world around us. All are welcome and there is no cost.

What's On at Kinross Arts Centre

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. \$50 per ticket. All funds assist 2017 outreach and creative programs at Kinross. Tickets via www.trybooking.com/NRAL.

Fellowship Morning Coffee

Mon. 28 Nov. at 10.30am in the Faichney Room. Please make a special effort to come because this will be our last gathering. ☹️
Discussion: "A Snake Story!"

In our thoughts and prayers:

Our Year 12 students.

The people of the USA—that unity might transcend division.

Organ spectacular with International Artist Kevin Bowyer at St John's Toorak. Friday 18 November at 7.30pm. Tickets via trybooking.com or at the door.

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 .

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.

Courtyard Rejuvenation

A **big thank you** from the Gardening Committee to those who've contributed to the rejuvenation of the courtyard area. Please have a look at the new chairs, tables and umbrellas, or enjoy your morning tea out there after the service! The courtyard is more inviting and comfortable and has already been used for small gatherings during the week! . The Gardening Committee seeks further donations to enable the purchase of some pots and plants to enhance the new landscaping. They will be most grateful for your support to continue creating this special outdoor space for our TUC community. Donations may be forwarded to Pamela Wilson, Nina Mumford/Jon Sennitt or the TUC Office. With our thanks.



Sunday 4th December: John Macrae Centre

Presentation: All are welcome to an after-church coffee and illustrated talk by the JMC Director, Katrina Szabo, and Chair Netta McArthur. Discover the variety of activities which take place each week, led by the talented staff and find out about the new Uniting Single Agency Board structure.

Church Fundraising Stall!

Sunday 11 December.

Please purchase some of our delicious home made goodies.

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.

Diary Dates

Sun	20 Nov	9 & 10.15	Mary Williams preaching	
Thu	24 Nov	10.00	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's
Sat	26 Nov	10-12.30	Retreat "Seeing Advent with new eyes"	
Sun	27 Nov	9 & 10.15	Advent 1	Church
Sun	27 Dec	7.00pm	TEC Advent Service	St Peter's
Mon	28 Nov	10.30am	Final Fellowship Morning Coffee	Faichney Room
Fri	02 Dec	2.30-4.30	Kinross Advent House Opening	TBA
Sun	04 Dec	9 & 10.15	Advent 2	Church
Sun	04 Dec	11.30	JMC presentation	Faichney Room
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	6.00pm	Family Carols in the Courtyard	Courtyard
Sat	24 Dec	8.00pm	Australian Christmas Carols Service	Church
Sun	25 Dec	10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Church

Services in January are at 9.30am.