



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 28 May 2017



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

Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still thinking — A brief reflection on aging— Christopher Page

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is a curious film. Benjamin is born an old, wrinkled, arthritic baby and lives his life backwards. He is an old man crippled with arthritis at the age of seven and a spritely youth at fifty-seven. During his long peculiar life, Benjamin Button learns what life is all about, initially seeing it through the eyes of a wise old man and finally with the naiveté of a child. The film is beautifully photographed and the lead actors Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett are brilliant, but it is the intriguing story told from Benjamin's perspective that carries the film.

Ageing is a perplexing issue in our western culture. Few people wake in the morning and as they get out of bed say, "Oh what a wonderful day, today I am older than I was yesterday, Yippy!" No it just doesn't happen that way. Why not? Why don't we revere and celebrate ageing as some cultures do? There are of course, some very practical reasons why we don't. The first of course is that ageing is about loss. As we age we lose physical strength and, sadly, physical form. We even lose some of the edge we had on our intellectual ability. And we can lose that precious gift of the freedom to do or go wherever we please. It reminds me of the words of Jesus to Peter at the end of John's gospel, "Truly, I tell you with certainty, when you were young, you would fasten your belt and go wherever you liked. But when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten your belt and take you where you don't want to go." Oh dear; I am not looking forward to that.

The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard said that "life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forward." If ageing causes us to live in the past then we have failed life, but if we are able to learn from our myriad of past experiences and carry that learning to our future, then we are living a life that is shaped by the spirit of wisdom. As the book of Proverbs states, "Wisdom is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her." Do we believe this about getting older?

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.

Church Fundraising Stall TODAY!

Buy Cakes & Jams, Bric-a-Brac & Books. All contributions greatly appreciated.



Ecumenical Pentecost service next Sunday, June 4 at 7.30pm. The preacher will be Rev. Dr Peter French from St John's Anglican Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Diary Dates

Sun 28 May		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins	
Tue 30 May	noon	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service	TUC
Wed 31 May	noon	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service	Swedish Church
Thu 01 June	noon	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service	St John's
Fri 02 June	noon	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service	St Peter's
Sun 04 June	7.00pm	Ecumenical Pentecost Service	TUC
Wed 07 Jun	6.30/7.30	Handbell rehearsal	Wettenhall Rm
Sun 11 Jun	2.00pm	Interfaith Service	Church
Mon 12 Jun		Office Closed—Queen's Birthday holiday	
Tue 13 Jun	4.30pm	Management Team	Wettenhall Rm
Sun 18 Jun	10.15am	Commissioning of Elders	
Sun 25 Jun	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service (TBC)	Church
Tue 27 Jun	7.30pm	Church Council	Wettenhall Rm
Thu 29 Jun	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St John's
Sun 27 Aug	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: Baptism Reunion (TBC)	

In our thoughts and prayers—

Anne Smith—still recovering at home after surgery.

Congratulations to Teck and Wilson Chan—celebrating their 42nd wedding anniversary.

Please consider joining the TUC **Planned Giving Stewardship Programme.**

Contact Stan Laugher:
9813 5242 | 0427 401 299 |
stanlaugher@acslink.net.au.

A Cornucopia of Musical Delights

You're Invited to a special concert of musical performances by talented and award-winning artists

Sunday 25 June, 3pm

at

Astolat

630 Riversdale Road, Camberwell


