



# TRANSCEND

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

AUGUST  
2017

## A Devotional Reading for August

**“It is a challenge to live in the present,** but taking a moral and personal inventory of ourselves gives us a way to do just that. It is a way to stay true to ourselves. As we continue to take inventory of our attitudes and behavior, we find ourselves growing in self-acceptance and self-love.

**In the past, the last thing we wanted to do was be honest.** Now possessing serenity and faith, we can see that our shortcomings are only that: shortcomings. They are part of who we are, and every part of ourselves is important. We also now possess moral courage and inner strength to listen to others who might be more objective than we are.

**Taking personal inventory is not a way to sit in judgment of ourselves;** nor is it allowing others to unfairly judge us without understanding our total fact; in other words our total life fact or the circumstances of our lives. Rather, taking moral inventory enables us to examine our behavior with honesty and gentleness. It is an affirmation that growth is a process; we do it throughout our lives. Taking time for a personal inventory is a way to say that our needs are important, our good points are important, and our character flaws are relevant. We are a whole people, lovable just as we are.”

All the best,  
Rev. Ron Rosinsky

**Prayer:** I will take time for a personal inventory today. I will admit my wrongs, give myself credit for accomplishments, and give the day to God with gratitude.

**Scripture:** *“Whenever our hearts condemn us- God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything...”*

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear.”*

- 1 John 3: 20; 4:18

60 Maribyrnong Road,  
Moonee Ponds  
Services: Sundays at  
10am



Rev. Ron Rosinsky

## Coming Events

**Aug 4-17**

*Fairtrade Fortnight*

**Saturday Aug 12**

*Men’s Group– 6pm, manse*

**Sunday Aug 13**

*Soul Group after Service*

**Saturday Aug 26**

*Family Fish & Chips Night*

**Sunday Aug 27**

*13th Anniversary of church fire. Shared lunch.*

**Sunday Aug 27**

*Harvest Swap after service*

Ascot Vale Uniting is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of age, race, creed, gender, cultural background, or sexual orientation

[ascotvaleuniting.org.au](http://ascotvaleuniting.org.au)

## Worship Services & Themes- 10 am Sundays

**6 August:** Communion Sunday- 'The historical Jesus: the pilgrimage to a fair society'

Matthew 14:13-21- Jesus feeds five thousand

**13 August:** Family Service- 'The historical Jesus: when truth is better than fiction.'

Matthew 14: 22-33 The legend of Jesus 'walking on water.'

**20 August:** *Rev. Eileen Ray*

**27 August:** 'Harness the energy of your mind and soul'. Interview with Mr. David Shaw, former mental health nurse. Matthew 15:10-28- The faith of a Gentile woman *Anniversary Service- with a shared lunch after the service.*

**3 September:** Father's Day- *Rev. Mark Dunn*



### On the Grapevine:

*"Typical family earns less than 2009 income."*

The typical Australian family takes home less today than it did in 2009...

This shock finding, in the latest wave of the Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, helps explain a growing political divide about inequality...

*Childcare:* Children with single parents are in childcare for more than 31 hours a week, almost nine hours more than two years before. Couples have their kids in care for 23 hours a week, according to the survey.

The cost of childcare for children under 5 has spiked considerably since 2002, up 75 per cent for couples and 104 per cent for singles since 2002."

- *Peter Martin, 'The Age'*

"Trump, like North Korea's Kim Jong-un, is surrounding himself with generals. It can only end in tears."

- *Moray Byrne, Edithvale*

"No matter how much psychiatric counseling one receives, and regardless of the quality of such guidance, the ultimate fact is that every person, on their own, by themselves, with God's help must take that final decisive step that activates the cure of unhealthy mental patterns."

- *Norman Vincent Peale*

*Ron R.*

### Kid's Uniting



**A modern Sunday school program for children - Every Sunday in the term**

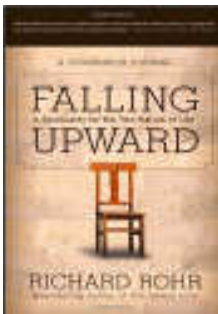
**Teachers: Caterina & Fiona**

**August – September topics: *the parables of Jesus about the attitudes we choose, and the importance of caring fathers.***

# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



## SOUL GROUPS



You are welcome to come along on after the service on **Sunday August 13th** for discussion, spiritual formation & inner well-being.

11.30—1pm middle room of church

Topics of Current discussion:

*'Falling Upward- A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life'*,

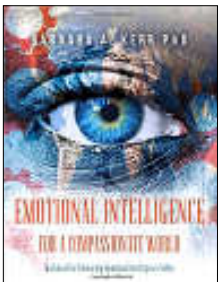
Richard Rohr

&

*'Emotional Intelligence for a Compassionate World'*,

Barbara A. Kerr

All welcome

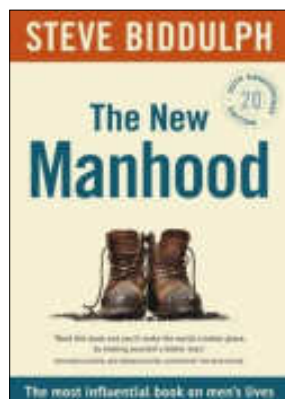


## Men's Group

Come along for Dinner and Discussion  
Saturday 12 August,  
6-10 pm

50 A Maribyrnong Road.

*"The Journey Down"*  
from the book,  
*'The New Manhood'* by  
Steve Biddulph



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE:

Notes from the Church Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July:

We've all heard the distressing history of child abuse within churches – including, alas, the Uniting Church. In response to these revelations, and the resulting court cases, our Synod has drawn up a **Keeping Children Safe Policy** which must be followed by all Uniting Churches in Victoria and Tasmania.

The first thing we have to do is to ensure that **all key people** have Working With Children Checks. "Key people" includes Church Councillors, Elders and Kids Uniting teachers, but also anyone who has any special role in the church – for instance organising and playing the music. Most of our key people have obtained WWCC's, but we may need to ask some others to do so too.

Church Council has, as required, formally adopted the Keeping Children Safe policy, a Code of Conduct based on it, and a Statement of Commitment. Key people also have to attend Safe Church Training every two years. Five of our key people did their training last Sunday, and other sessions will be organised for the others to attend.

Another very important requirement is that we appoint a **Culture of Safety Contact Person** (COSCP for short), and let everyone in the congregation know who that person is. Their role is to be available for anyone with any concerns about child safety – whether a child who feels unsafe, or an adult who observes something worrying – to report their concerns to. It is then the COSCP's role to report the concern to the Synod officer responsible, who will decide what action needs to be taken. At the present, **your Culture of Safety Contact Person is Dorothy Howes**. Please let me know immediately if you have any concerns for the safety of any child in our church.

**We do urgently need a Deputy COSCP**, as I will be away in Europe and England from 21 September till the end of October. Please volunteer for this role if you can! On past experience, it seems very unlikely the COSCP would have any active role in our church, but we must follow the requirements.

There are many other details we have to attend to, and we hope you will be willing to help as you are able. We will keep you informed!

Dorothy Howes

Secretary, Church Council



## Details regarding the Cake Stall

We sell cakes, biscuits, jams, jellies and preserves as well as some hand-made items. No fresh cream cakes, no raw eggs, nothing perishable.

If you wish to provide anything for sale, please contact Candace so that she can let you know the health and safety requirements and give you the appropriate labels to use.

If you don't like to cook but can spare some time to help set up, price items for sale, or sell or pack things away that would be great.

It is a fantastic way to get to know other members of the congregation as well as to meet members of our community.

This is a great fundraising opportunity for our church community and we need everyone's support.

**Time:** 8:15 to 12 or 1pm

**Place:** In front of Happy Receptions (201 Union Rd) Ascot Vale





# PLANET EARTH

By Geoff Serpell

[www.victas.uca.org.au/giving](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/giving)  
July 2017

How healthy is the world that our children and grandchildren live in?

While most world leaders try to agree to cut back on pollutants such as burning coal, what can you and I do in our small corner of our God-given world?

Can we reduce our waste of discarded clothes and unwanted food and lower our consumption of commodities to what is needed rather than what we want?

Maybe we can be more discerning about the source of the products we acquire, having more regard for the workers who produced the articles, their conditions of employment, and how much exploitation exists in some countries.

Next time we consider an overseas holiday maybe we should be more concerned with how a particular country is standing in the eyes of the world about matters such as fairness to their less privileged, and how cooperative their government is in battling pollution and global warming.

Planting our own vegetables, shrubs and trees, and using a china mug instead of a plastic disposable container, are little ways we could lead by example to our grandchildren, who may just notice and learn from our actions.

### **Reflection:**

*God has given us a wonderful place to live our lives. Let us not lose the opportunity to pass on our corner of the world as a better place than how we found it. Be mindful of two quotes from Mother Teresa: "Live simply so others may simply live" and "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies".*

Cards are available for those using Direct Debit to place in the collection bag. They are on the table near the name tags.

*'Transcend' is published on the first Sunday of each month except January. Articles, photos and other contributions are welcome. Email them to the Editor, Robin Waltrowicz no later than the Wednesday before publication. To receive a monthly copy of Transcend by email Contact: [avuniting@hotmail.com](mailto:avuniting@hotmail.com)*

## FROM THE TREASURER

### Offerings

There are only a small percentage of our membership contributing with regular offerings either by direct credit or regular weekly envelope giving. The opportunity to give regularly by direct bank offering was introduced two years ago but only a small number of people have taken up this system. Please see Peter Macdonald if you are interested. Our envelope giving has reduced by 50% over the last two years, both in terms off the number of envelopes and the offering contributed. While some of this has been due to people changing to direct credit there has been a significant reduction in the number of people giving regularly.

There are a number of envelopes available on the table in the gathering space.

We are running at a deficit (\$18,578 through June) and we need to build our income in addition to controlling expenses.

Our request is that you consider a regular offering – either direct credit or envelope giving .

Contributions do not have to be large, only what you feel you can give.

Please consider.

### Income and Expenses—June 2017

Offerings	\$2,016
Fundraising	\$ 100
Appeals	\$ 0
Donations	\$ 100
Building Users	\$1,459
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$3,675</u>

Ministry	\$5,818
Mission & Service	\$ 0
Property	\$ 972
Other	\$ 169
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$6,959</u>

**Deficit for June is \$ 3,284**

**Deficit for year through June is \$ 18,578**

### UCA Funds Management – Annual Investor Briefing

The Briefing will be held on Tuesday Aug 8th. I will attend on behalf of the congregation

### Synod Survey

The information for the annual synod financial and property survey was submitted during July.

### Finance Committee

The finance committee met July 20<sup>th</sup> and reviewed income and expenses through June versus budget and versus 2016.

Rental income through June was reviewed and proposed rental rates for 2018 were developed. The next finance committee meeting will be during October- date to be advised.

Peter Macdonald

## Rob and Eileen's trip

We took a 16-day bus tour round Scandinavia: Stockholm, Copenhagen clockwise to Helsinki with 5 days north of the Arctic Circle (so 5 non-nights). Before that we did our own thing for 3 weeks using Eurail pass mostly in Germany, and afterwards we came back through the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) by bus and plane (skipping Poland) then Dresden, Frankfurt and home. Away two months.

### Some memories:

Architecture: the Art Nouveau style buildings of Riga (Latvia) that are festooned with fantastical sculptures of leaves, animals, elves, birds and lovely ladies.

Brass plates: about 10cm square on German footpaths in memory of victims of the Holocaust who lived there.

Cannonballs: stodgy German potato dumplings served with boiled ham hock and sauerkraut – never again.

Fiords: lots of them, often gloomy, with a waterfall every few 100m or so!

Heavy water: the hydroelectric plant where it was made and the lake where it went to the bottom in 1944. After repeated raids by the Resistance and Allied bombers on the plant at Vemork in southern Norway, the railway-ferry was blown up over the deepest part of the lake. That finally prevented the Nazis developing an atom bomb, but killed all the civilians on the ferry (the movie "The Heroes of Telemark" changed that bit). We would not have thought of going to Vemork but we're glad it was included in our tour.

Museums/ art galleries: In almost every city we saw some great art including that by artists we'd never heard of but who are famous in their own countries. We were also struck by the Egyptian and Assyrian artefacts, like the head of Nefertiti and whole buildings, acquired by Germany over the centuries.

Spargel: Fat white asparagus was in season and eaten by Eileen at every opportunity

Stave churches: centuries-old wooden churches with wooden pillars in Norway. The one we went inside had pagan carvings of dragons and demons on the bishop's chair and high on the north walls – north being where evil things lived.



Reindeer: We were quite excited when we saw our first, woollier than expected, hard to photograph from a moving bus. Later we visited a reindeer farm and hand fed them.

Hen's parties: we kept coming across groups of young women, the bride-to-be and her friends, dressed up and selling cakes, chocolates, etc in the street, especially on Saturday nights. By tradition this is "to pay for the wedding".





Reflections: of snow-topped mountains in the upper lake at Konigssee (King's Lake) in south-east Bavaria south of Salzburg.



**By Rob & Eileen**

North Cape: the most northerly part of Europe, 1000 foot cliffs, on an island reached by a 7km undersea tunnel. We didn't get the sub-zero howling blizzard we packed for – it was a lovely calm sunny day. It was so calm no-one got seasick on our bird-watching cruise.

### AVUC ROSTER, August-September 2017.

Please make your own arrangements for any necessary exchange of dates.

	LEADER	COM-MUNION	DUTY ELDER	MUSIC	WELCOMER	READER	MORNING TEA
6 August Communion	Rev Ron	Dina	Dina	Julian	Dina	Angelika	Bente /Barbara
13 August Family Service	Rev Ron		Noel	Julian	Robin	Cally	Chris / Dina
20 August	Rev Ron		Dorothy	`Dorothy	Ken/Jenny	Bente	MaryCon/Angelika
27 August Garden Swap	TBA		Angelika	Rob	Michael	Melita	Dina /Judy
3 September Communion	Rev Ron	Dorothy	Dorothy	Rob	Robin	Chris	Bente/Chris
10 September Family Service	Rev Ron		Michael	Julian	Peter	Melita	MaryCon/Barbara
17 September Kids Uniting on Holiday	Rev Ron		Noel	Dorothy	Judy	Ken	Angelika/Dina
24 September	TBA		Dorothy	Candace	Cally	Barbara	Chris/Judy

# DonateLife Week 2017

## Sunday 30 July – Sunday 6 August

Rev. Mark Dunn

I am proud to belong to a church which has wrestled with the issues of Human Organ Donations and prepared a thorough background paper for the guidance of members of our church which addressed the key theological and ethical issues related to this subject. (Synod Committee on Bioethics, 1992)

Let me tell you the Fowlers' story. In October 1993 Tony and Brenda Fowler's son Mark died in a car accident. Mark, aged 23, was carried, in circumstances that are still unclear, 600 metres on the bonnet of a car.

He broke his neck and he sustained severe head injuries. The accident happened at 10pm on a Wednesday. In less than 24 hours and after two independent tests to establish brain stem death, his parents had agreed that Mark's body should be given for organ transplantation.

His heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and his corneas were used, successfully, as far as his parents are aware, to bring life, health and sight to seven other human beings.

***"It is a great comfort that we can feel that a little part of our son is living on in other people, that he is helping them to be alive," Mrs Fowler said. "Our son is extremely missed. But something has been saved from his life."***

If you haven't signed onto the Australian Organ Donor Registry yet, maybe you will use this link:

<https://register.donatelife.gov.au/decide>

In **DonateLife Week 2017** (Sunday 30 July - Sunday 6 August) I'm inviting you to make your decision count by joining the Australian Organ Donor Register.

I invite you to join me by promoting the importance of registering your donation decision. Led by the Organ and Tissue Authority, DonateLife Week is a key part of the Australian Government's national reform program to increase organ and tissue donation and transplantation outcomes.

Registration is important – nine in ten families agree to donation proceeding when the deceased is a registered organ donor. More than 1,400 Australians and their families are today waiting for a life-saving transplant.

If you are willing to one day save lives by becoming an organ and tissue donor, please register and discuss your decision with your family and friends. As Christians, it's right that we lead by example so we must take this plea seriously.

Government policy towards organ donation derives from legislation, the philosophy of which is that donation is seen as a positive and altruistic gift by the donor. As Christians we have a responsibility to lead the way in promoting positive community attitudes about all sorts of things – equality for all, the abolition of racism, the affirmation of differently-abled people. We strive to be true to our calling, to be salt, light, leaven in the lump!

Stewardship of our bodies is part of our broader theology of our stewardship of all the world's resources. So more than being a positive altruistic gift by the donor, I believe that for us as Christians the positive choice is part of our responsibility to live out our stewardship theology. To use and allow creative use of everything we have and are, including our bodily bits – whatever our age! You can be 100 and die in bed and still donate your corneas and give sight to the blind. It is the ultimate in recycling!

It's a parable of the Gospel that the gift of life (on earth) which a donor may offer to a recipient, costs them nothing – if you or I were to be a donor, the treasured gift of a life-giving organ costs us nothing – it's free like God's grace – but it can mean the difference between life and death to a fellow human being.

Our Lord spent a lot of his ministry running health and healing workshops and I'm keen that we should maintain the high profile of that priority in our church and community today. Let's promote good honest open discussion about these issues at every level in church, family and community.

Often our church has rightly spoken out with bold criticism of the government of the day about all variety of matters. It seems right to balance political criticism with affirmation where appropriate. The government has done a good thing in instituting the National Organ Donor Registry. The register enables transplant coordinators to easily ascertain whether an individual has registered a willingness to be a donor.

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Having ministered on both sides :

(a) I've sat with families as they come to the painful decision of turning off life support systems – there can be some comfort to know that someone else's quality of life is enhanced through the use of organs for transplant.

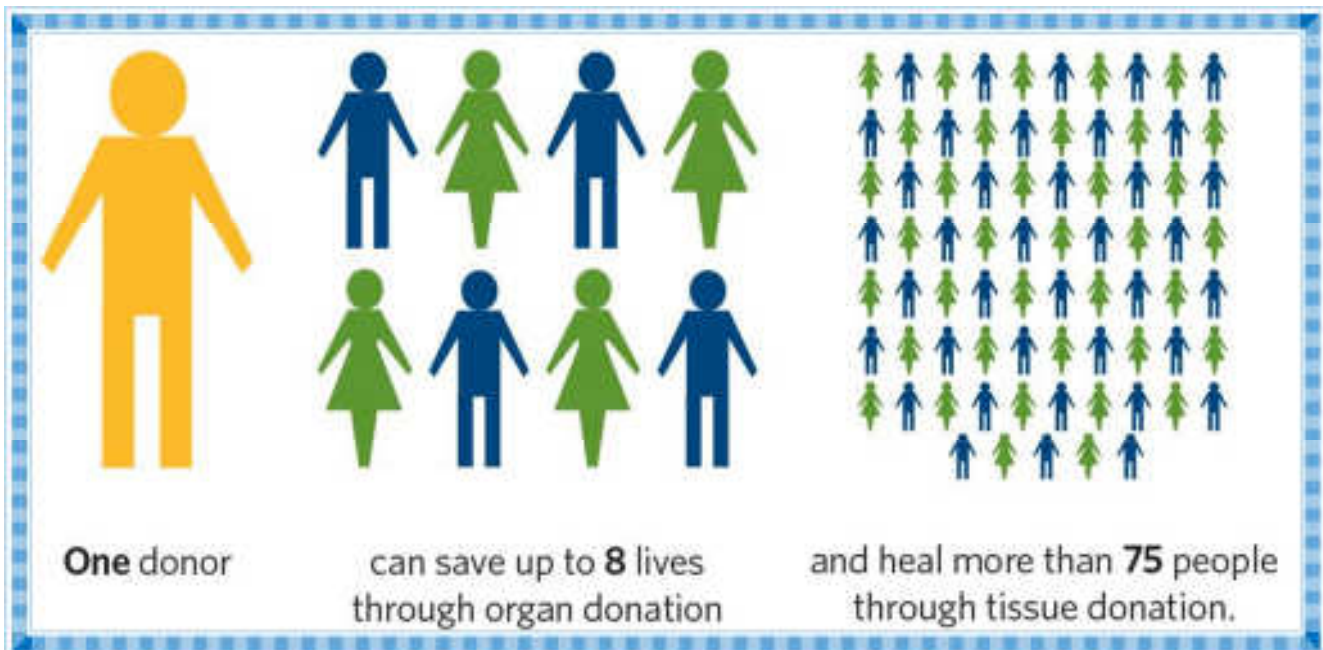
(b) For the recipient, there can be no more precious gift in this life than the gift of an organ to bring a new quality of life and hope.

I ask you to give this matter your prayerful consideration and talk with your family about this important matter. If you are happy to proceed, complete the online registration today. <https://register.donatelife.gov.au/>

[register.donatelife.gov.au/](https://register.donatelife.gov.au/)

Sincerely

Rev Mark Dunn



## Harvest Swap



**The next Harvest Swap will be on August 27th. following the service.**

Bring along plants or anything else related to gardening to swap or share.

Come and meet people who share an interest in growing plants.

Get advice from some of the more experienced growers.

## **Sunday Aug 27 is the 13th Anniversary of the Fire** **Join us after the service for a shared lunch**



### **The AGE Aug 30, 2004**

Police are investigating a fire that gutted a historic church in Ascot Vale early yesterday.

The Uniting Church on Maribyrnong Road was engulfed in fire shortly after midnight and may be beyond repair, its minister, the Reverend Rob Rosinsky, said yesterday.

Mr Rosinsky said he left the church shortly before 10pm on Saturday night, and about two hours later, heard a noise from his nearby home.

"I heard a commotion on the street. I looked up and saw my church in flames," he said.

The church, built in 1896, was insured for \$1 million, he said. Church organist Tim Baker estimated the pipe organ in the church would cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 to rebuild.

Detective Sergeant Andrew Kerr, of the arson squad, said the fire was deliberately lit. It is believed the offenders entered the building after smashing a side window and started the fire without using an accelerant, Sergeant Kerr said.

A member of the congregation who stood outside the church yesterday, Barbara Barke, said she could not understand why anyone would want to damage the building. "Mainly older people come here... Somebody has done a pretty good job (destroying the building)," she said.

Some parishioners heard about the fire before yesterday morning's scheduled service, which was cancelled, but some arrived for the service to be confronted with the burnt-out church.

### **The ABC August 29th 2004**

Members of a Uniting Church in the Melbourne suburb of Moonee Ponds are looking for a new place to worship after arsonists burnt their church building down overnight.

Arson squad detectives have confirmed the fire which destroyed the Ascot Vale Uniting Church in Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds, was deliberately lit.

Church members who arrived for a service this morning were devastated.

Iris Wright says many of her happiest memories are connected to the church.

"So sad, it was a wonderful building," she said.

"I was married here 57 years ago so I'm really feeling it very much today."

Several members of the congregation held hands and sobbed outside what remains of the building.

### **The AGE May 5, 2005**

#### **Church arsonist blames heavy-metal hero**

A devoted follower of a Scandinavian band notorious for its heavy metal anti-Christian music burnt down a majestic Moonee Ponds church in a multi-million-dollar arson attack.

Novak Majstorovic had drunken visions of the 107-year-old Ascot Vale Uniting Church being responsible for society's problems with law, ethics and morality.

Majstorovic, 19, admitted his passion for the band Burzum, whose lead singer was allegedly involved in burning down numerous Norwegian churches in the 1990s, helped create a heavy metal ideological imagery based on good and evil.

Police learnt the band's lead singer Varg Vikernes, now in jail for murder, was commonly referred to as a Satanist, but was regarded more as deeply anti-Christian and anti-Semitic.

Majstorovic yesterday appeared in the Melbourne Magistrates Court to plead guilty to arson and burglary. Majstorovic, who had drunk half a bottle of bourbon, had earlier left a party, telling guests he was going to burn the church. After entering, he lit Bibles, scrap paper, books and flags near the pulpit and left.

### **ABC NEWS SEPT 2006**

Judge Jeanette Morrish said she believed Majstorovic's letter of apology for the \$3 million fire was genuine and he was willing to participate in rehabilitation programs.

She sentenced him to three years in a youth training centre.