



TRANSCEND

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

DECEMBER
2017

Nurturing and Hope

"To eat bread without hope is still slowly to starve to death."

- Pearl S. Buck

What is nurturing? What gives hope so that our inner well-being doesn't starve to death? What would it mean to live in a nurturing society, one where even men nurtured self, one another, and others?

If we exist without hope we will surely lose our hold on life and reality. Those of us locked into a particular life-style without love or intimacy move step-by-step into despair. We retreat into our little worlds, sometimes of selfish gratification. Gradually we forget what it means to be truly alive.

But Christmas calls us forth to generosity- of self, of Spirit, of our entire being. *A Christian* Christmas reminds us that **sacrifice itself to a worthy cause brings the greatest joy.**

If we look around at people living their faith or in recovery, we are struck by the sparkle in their eyes, the spring in their step, their unconditional generosity. They have come back to life and the true Spirit of Christmas lives in them. Such people have learned how to care again and to be unafraid of closeness. They have found life again in all its vibrancy and promise of change and renewal.

This kind of energy, of stable and starlight, and empty tomb and personal change, is contagious and forms one of the many advantages of working together in our church groups. We see people change and come back to life. They see their names written in God's book of Life. And we learn how lonely they and we are when we seek only the world's false promises. Their faith journeys', their life stories, touch our lives and inspire us to come back out of the darkness of our anxieties and fears and into the clear light of day. *'The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never overcome it.'*

From a theological perspective, sharing hope would mean recovering the tradition of God as Mother and mothering. That does not mean that we can remain as the perpetual 'Peter Pan' in a permanent state of immaturity and dependency.

It means that we take seriously our higher calling as agents of compassion and loved players in *'the circle of being in which all beings exist.'* (Meister Eckhart) **For God is not only mother, but God is also child. And we are to be mothers of God.**

This means that we 'have buy in' to the key moral issues of our time from our divine, sometimes hidden selves, and we are enriched by studying our Judeo-Christian prophets who were givers; they were 'mothers of God'.

PTO

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



Rev. Ron Rosinsky

Coming Events

Thur Dec 7: Finance Meeting 7.30

Sat Dec 9: AVUC community feast and carols by candlelight 6-9pm

Sun Dec 10: Soul Group
Dr Andrew Horwood 11.30—1pm

Christmas Day: 9.30am service
6pm shared Christmas dinner at Rosinskys. Please bring a plate

Sat Jan 27: Fish and Chips night - barbecue (6pm) and concert (7.15)

Sun Jan 28: Kid's Uniting resumes

Sun Feb 25: Ron's last Sunday

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

Here are two moral questions that will define us, and to which we can give a generous divine response:

Global warming- the quest for cleaner energy;

The treatment of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, and minority groups within our society and the world.

Christmas peace to you and yours; good will to all!

Rev. Ron Rosinsky

Worship Services & Themes- 10 am Sundays

Sunday 3 December: **Celebrating Communion**, *'A worthy goal: breathing Christmas to the Spirit of humankind'* Mark 13: 24-37

Saturday 9 December- 6pm: Community feast & carols by candle-light service

Sunday 10 December: **The Baptism of Rahed Assadinajad-** *'Ourselves as mothers of God and birthers of God's son'* Mark 1: 1-8

Sunday 10 December - 11:30-1pm: Soul Group- featuring Dr. Andrew Horwood, GP - *'Your [beautiful] mind and how it works'*,

Sunday 17 December: *'Danger: birthing divinity and breathing God's promise to humankind'*
John 1: 6-18

Sunday 24 December: *'Unlocking the courageous child within'*
Luke 1: 26-38

Christmas Day: **9:30am**, *'Unlocking the courageous child within part II'* Luke 2: 1-20

Sunday 31 December: Rev. Mark Dunn

Sunday 7 January: Rev Ron Rosinsky

Sunday 14 January: Rev Ian Collings

Sunday 21 January: Rev Ian Collings

Sunday 28 January: Rev Ron Rosinsky

SPECIAL EVENT

Your Mind and How It Works - Dr Andrew Horwood



There's lots of confusion today about how the mind and emotions work. With the epidemic of mental health problems nowadays, we can forget that our mind is beautifully designed – for both intelligence and understanding. Perhaps we've lost the instruction manual that gives clear instructions about how the mind works.

Join Dr Andrew Horwood, GP with 40 years' experience in holistic medicine, workshop presenter and poet, and open the instruction manual anew to discover treasures about the mind that are hidden in plain sight. At the church, December 10th after the service 11.30am to 1.00pm

Upcoming Events

December

Saturday 9 December: AVUC community feast & carols by candle-light service, 6-9pm- *Please bring a plate to share.*

Sunday 10 December: Soul Group- featuring Dr. Andrew Horwood, GP- *'Your [beautiful] mind and how it works'*, 11:30-1pm

Christmas Day: 9:30 am worship service with carols; 6pm shared dinner at the manse with the Rosinskys. *Please bring a plate to share.*

January

Saturday 27 January: Family Fish & Chips Night- BBQ (6pm) & concert (7:15pm) from AVUC Rock Band.

Kid's Uniting

A modern Sunday school program

Join teachers Cat & Fiona



Topics: Telling the Advent & Christmas stories, & getting ready for the carols by candlelight service.

Concludes on Sunday 17 December.

Re-commences on Sunday 28 January 2018. All welcome!



On the Grapevine:

"A real and self forgetting act of mercy that reflects the inspiration Jesus gives will create a deeper satisfaction than giving or receiving the most expensive gift."

- *Anonymous*

"No one is sterile. Every soul is pregnant with the seed of insight.

It is vague and hidden. In some people the seed grows, in others it decays.

Some give birth to life. Others miscarry it. Some know how to bear, to nurse, to rear and insight that comes into being. Others do not..."

- *Rabbi Heschel*

"What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the son of God fourteen hundred years ago and I do not also give birth to the son of God in my time and in my culture?"

- *Meister Eckhart*

"The Christmas story was ushered in with a song: "Peace on earth, good will to all people."

When we have good will in our minds, we also have peace of mind. When we have peace in our hearts, we also have love in our hearts. Who but our Lord could have thought of such a simple way to happiness?"

- *Norman Vincent Peale*



Ron speaks to the congregation about his move to Coburg Uniting and that his last service will be on February 25th 2018

The Working Bee on Sunday 19th November



Thanks and well done to the 13 workers who worked so hard in the garden and those who assisted with the lunch. A considerable amount of weeds were removed and the vegetable plots were cleared ready for use by the children from the Treehouse. Church Council is arranging for regular future maintenance of the garden.



Harvest Swap



There will be no Harvest Swaps in December and January. The next one will be on Sunday February 25th 2018.

"It's been good to see many returning people at the meet, and reading people's comments about how welcoming the group is, and how much they enjoy the sharing of expertise."

Eileen Ray

Joint Nominating Committee

Would you like to have a say in calling a new Minister at AVUC?
Would you like to help prepare a profile for this Church that prospective Ministers' would look at?

If yes to any of these questions, you might consider serving on the joint nominating committee for this Church.

See Dorothy Howes or Michael Long of Church Council for more details.



Ascot Vale Uniting Church
60 Maribyrnong Road
Moonee Ponds, Vic 3039

18 November 2017

Dear one and all,

We've had a wonderful time together over these last thirteen plus years. It's been a privilege to serve the people of Ascot Vale Uniting Church (U.C.) and the wider community.

I write to let you know that unfortunately I will be concluding my placement at Ascot Vale Uniting Church. My last Sunday will be 25 February 2018. I leave Ascot Vale to commence a full-time placement at Coburg Uniting Church on Sunday 4 March 2018. I was pledged to secrecy about all of this until Coburg U.C. had their congregational meeting on 29th October about whether to call me as their Minister.

Coburg U.C. is undertaking a multi-million dollar re-development of their church building; they are looking for leadership with this and in reaching out to the community.

I commenced as your Minister way back in June of 2004, when we were meeting in our original church on Maribyrnong Road, and John Howard was Prime Minister. Two months later our Church was burned down by an arsonist. As someone once said, "*a crisis clears the mind marvelously.*" So began our long twilight struggle-successfully- to rebuild our Church, not to be a fortress but a base-camp for helping others. We moved back to our newly built church on Maribyrnong Road in December 2008.

I here give my personal thanks to those fine people then and now who have shown outstanding leadership in rebuilding the church building and the congregation. The congregation has been thriving for years. *In all of you, the forces of violence and destructiveness have not only met their match, but met their master.*

You should know and be strongly re-assured that our congregational leaders of 2017-18 are now implementing plans to secure the future of Ascot Vale U.C.. Plans are well underway for a very positive future at this church, including conversations with Presbytery officials to obtain interim ministry at Ascot Vale UC.

Many are understandably skeptical or outrightly hostile toward the church; some wish for it's demise. But as long as there is human suffering and neglect, social isolation and hopelessness, there will always be a role for the local church. People of a strong and active faith drive human progress in a way that no-one else can. And people will always want to feel part of a caring family. The local church, particularly ours, is in a unique position to take on that role, to 'love with family affection' as Paul put it. These days families need stronger support, as the gaps are all too apparent.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and cherish the friendships that I have made, and the experience gained. I love this congregation, both it's diversity and it's quality. Over the years we have articulated a believable faith based on critical biblical scholarship; while embracing a compassionate and listening approach to others, based on the example of the historical Jesus.

Nothing drives human evolution- moral evolution- like people of a good faith. Consider civil rights movements the world over, many driven by people of a humanitarian and progressive faith: Ghandi and King, Dorothy Day and Mandela. Indeed some of the most eloquent and articulate advocates for marriage equality have been progressive Christians.

So what kind of church will Ascot Vale be? What kind of faith will Christianity be? Let it be strong and active, the bandage not the wound on humanity. You should have your say.

Affectionately and with thanks,

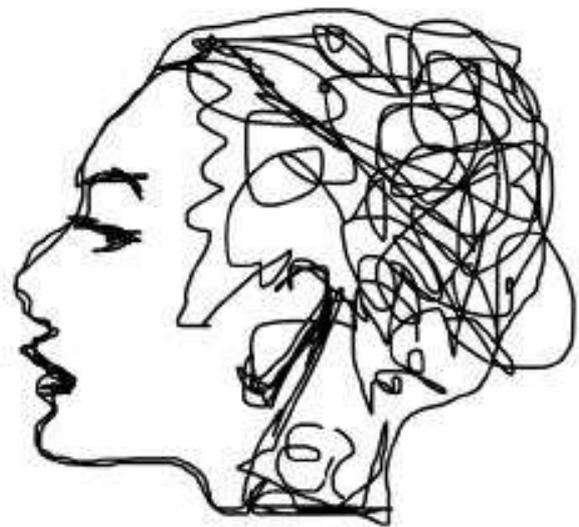
Peace,

Rev. Ron W. Rosinsky

Your Mind and How It Works

Confused about your mind and emotions?
With so many mental health problems nowadays, **we can forget that our mind is beautifully designed for intelligence and understanding.**

Learn how and experience some good news



Presented by Dr Andrew Horwood, holistic GP with 40 yrs experience, workshop presenter and poet.

WHEN: Sunday, Dec 10th, 11.30 am to 1pm

WHERE: Ascot Vale Uniting Church, 60 Maribynong Rd,
Moonee Ponds

ALL WELCOME



Thank you all and farewell from Dina

Five years ago I walked into your world.
And five years ago I found myself.
You, each and every one of you, have provided me with something precious.
In our church, this church, there is so much wealth.

There are the quiet achievers. Those who give so much ... Marycon and her yummy deserts, Chris and Robin's monthly newsletter, Judith and her weekly flower arrangement, Angelica with her calm composure while dealing with Coral.

And Joyce, who never forgets anyone's birthday. And her yummy cakes!
I have no doubt that I forgot to mention many of you.

And, there is the other group, the 'not so quiet' ones. Benta, Candice, Barbara, Dorothy, Isabella... True pleasure...

I truly admire some participants. Coral, who travels with her walker; Peter, who hardly ever misses a chance to participate; Jean, who misses nothing.

And I will miss immensely, my Rosinsky family. They provided me with safety and security when I had none.

As of 31 December, I resigned from all my duties.
As an Elder, I have not been particularly valuable.
I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibility as a Ground Manager.
Also my duties as a Council member.

All of the above is irrelevant.
The thing is, I will miss you.
I'll miss the chatter, I'll miss the gardens, I'll miss your unique ways of perception, I'll miss the challenge.
I'll miss everything about you.
There will never be another place like this.
Nor people like you.

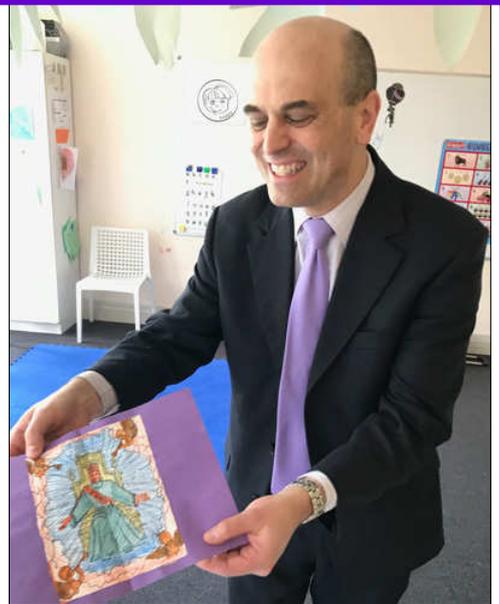
Thank you. For the privilege of meeting you.

Wish you all, the absolute best!

Please stay in touch.

Hvezda Monaghan
(Dina)

Sincere thanks Dina, from Ron, the Church Council, Elders and the church community. You have been a wonderful worker for our church. We will miss you as a friend and look forward to a continuing relationship with you. It has been a pleasure to know you and we wish you every happiness in your move to Wollongong.



Some of the display at the Exhibition of the children's work on November 5th.

