



TRANSCEND

DECEMBER
2018

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

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

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL:

Our new Minister-to-be, Rev Gordon Bannon, attended a Sunday service recently with two delightful daughters, and was informally but warmly welcomed.

Gordon and his wife Sue live at Castlemaine, but it appears at this stage that he may wish to stay for part of the week in our manse. This, however, needs roof and other repairs. A quote has been accepted for these, but they cannot be completed until the Rosinsky family move into accommodation in Coburg in mid-January. Hence the manse won't be available for Gordon's use till the beginning of February.

Gordon will preach his first sermon at AVUC on Sunday 20th January. Please do your best to be there to give him a hearty welcome!

Our Pastoral Carer till the end of the year is Rev Ian Pearse. Ian has done a terrific job in contacting all possible members of the congregation, offering care where appropriate. He is also attending Sunday services in order to become familiar with us all, and worked tirelessly with Michael at our Election Day BBQ. What dedication! Thank you, Ian, you are a wonderful support.

Our Election Day BBQ and Cake Stall on 24th November raised the impressive sum of around \$1500. This was thanks to the great efforts of our many members who baked the large variety and quantity of cakes and biscuits which they and others sold so successfully. Special thanks to Michael for his management of the BBQ, and to Candace for her unobtrusive but masterly organising of the whole event and the negotiations involved in the use of the church as a polling booth. The proceeds of the stall will go to James, to help him pay the university fees for his brother Elijah to study pharmacy. James is extremely grateful.

Our new security code lock for the main door to the church is now functioning and giving effective protection to our tenants as well as church members. If you need to operate the locks please see Candace, who has so efficiently organised the changeover – she has had a lot of practice in explaining their use (sometimes more than once) to church council members and elders. Thank you again, Candace.

Our Carol Evening, on **Saturday 8th December**, will start with a **shared tea at 6.00 pm**. The BBQ will be available for use – if you can. please bring a little extra meat, savouries, salad, cake, fruit or other food, to share with any visitors. The meal will be followed by a Christmas celebration of **carol singing** with a **dramatic presentation by our younger members**, beginning about 7.00 pm. Please come, with your family and friends if you can, and be uplifted as we explore the deeper meaning of Christmas in the company of dear church and other friends.

The Induction of Rev Gordon Bannon as our Minister will be a highlight for us all. It will take place at AVUC at **2.00 pm** on **Sunday 3rd February 2019**. As there is only a short time between our usual service and the Induction we will stay at the church for shared lunch followed by a **performance from our local musicians** – Timothy, Michael, Julian, Ruth and others. It will be a privilege and a treat to hear them, and to formally welcome Gordon, so please plan now to be there on 3rd February next year!

Dorothy Howes, Secretary to Church Council, 26th November 2018

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

CAROLS EVENING AT THE CHURCH



Saturday December 8th from 6.00pm
Join us for a an evening of fellowship, food,
carol singing and a
children's Christmas presentation

We will start with a shared meal.

The BBQ will be running

Meat, salad, cake, fruit etc will be great to share

**Most of all bring yourself, family and friends and enjoy
a true celebration of Christmas.**

INDUCTION OF REV. GORDON BANNON

February 3rd. 2.00pm at the church

We will have our regular service at 10am followed by a shared lunch
and a performance by our talented musicians

Gordon's Induction will be conducted at 2pm by the
presbytery chairperson Rev. Bruce Watson
and will be followed by afternoon tea

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO WELCOME GORDON ON THIS
SIGNIFICANT DAY FOR OUR CHURCH**

Kid's Uniting

We have a modern Sunday school program held during the service. Our teachers provide a program featuring yoga and guided meditation, and learning about key Biblical stories in a supportive and creative environment.

Please note that classes are run only during school terms.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2019

	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Finish Date</u>
Term1	29 January	5 April
	(Students start 30 Jan in Govt. schools)	
Term 2	23 April	28 June
Term 3	15 July	20 September
Term 4	7 October	20 December

Garden Swap



**THERE WILL BE NO GARDEN SWAPS IN
DECEMBER AND JANUARY. WE WILL RESUME
ON FEBRUARY 24th.**

Election Day Sausage Sizzle & Cake Stall - Nov 24th

What a great effort! Our thanks to those who worked so hard on the stall during the day and to those who provided the splendid array of cakes for the cake stall.

Special thanks to Michael and Ian who did a great job on the barbecue and as usual to Candace for making the arrangements.

Around \$1500 was raised, which will go towards Elijah's pharmacy studies in South Sudan.



From Elijah Mapuor Subject: Thanks for your generous support

My lifelong dream of attending medical school is moving forward, thanks to the generous gesture of members of Ascot Vale congregation. I am the first in my family to attend medical school. Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of university education. My plans at this stage are to complete a bachelor degree in pharmacy which is one of the finest programs in the country and I consider myself fortunate to pursue it due to your generous support. I am overwhelmed with tears of joy. May God bless all of you in your endeavours.

Elijah Mapuor

BAPTISM

On Sunday November 25th we celebrated the baptism of Harrison Donald Scott.

Harrison is the son of Gareth and Melissa. The service was attended by a large number of their family and friends.

Rev. Eileen Ray conducted the service.

Below is one of the readings used in the service



Children learn what they live by Dorothy Law Nolte

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith.
If children live with love around them,
they learn to give love to the world



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

At this time of year, we can experience the true Spirit of love, the joy of giving, and how a whole society can change for the better when the Spirit moves everyone.

Our Christmas traditions are always changing and developing new ways of expression but nothing changes our feelings. We might feel sad at the commercialism of Christmas but at the same time, the continued existence of the Christian message offers people hope for the future and a refuge when they are in trouble.

People often say that life would be so good if it was Christmas all the time. In actual fact, for Christians, the Christmas Spirit IS always with us. When we look around us, and count our blessings, may we all be filled with a lasting gratitude makes life worthwhile.

**So, like St Nicholas, filled with love, joy, and peace,
we can go out and serve the Lord.**

1ST CORINTHIANS 13

(A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

...In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful that they are there to get in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

WORDS OF WISDOM

I was talking with an elderly churchgoing friend about what we understand by the word "heaven", and found his words helpful. He said:

"I don't understand much about heaven, but there are three things I feel sure of: it will be different from anything we can possibly imagine; it will be good; and it will be for everyone".

This same friend, who is increasingly frail and whose wife is in palliative care, shared with us a minor revelation. These words had come into his mind: "Think of old age not as a blight to be endured, but as new territory to be explored". Isn't that sort of courage and faith inspiring?

Dorothy Howes

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SEND CARDS!

Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop

North Essendon Uniting Church 131 Keilor Rd Details: 9379 3326

Will be open Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am - 4pm

Saturdays from 9.30am—12.30pm until mid-December



THE KISS OF BETRAYAL

By Bill Pugh

A kiss can be a lovely expression of love. A child kisses her mother. A boy hugs and kisses his grandad. The kiss between a bride and groom, an engaged couple, a welcome kiss, a goodbye kiss. A lovely terms of endearment.

Sadly a kiss can lead to betrayal and the breakdown of sacred bonds and relationships.

Judas arranged with the religious authorities to identify and betray Jesus with a kiss. For a sum of money. Thirty pieces of silver to betray his special friend and Master. Not for any price would be worth such a betrayal. And yet he did.

Many reasons have been suggested as to why Judas could even contemplate such a betrayal. Whatever the reason, he betrayed the Son of God with a kiss. The ultimate sign of affection used for a terrible betrayal. A kiss of death. How often does it happen that pretended affection can lead to terrible betrayal? Breakdown of a marriage. Paedophilia at the very heart of the Church. The kiss of betrayal.

Reflection: In poetic and sacred praise, Christina Rossetti extols the most sacred, holy and loving kiss of all, as Mary holds her first-born son in that stable at Bethlehem.

“Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air, But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.”

Christina identifies him thus: “The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.”

Surely the measuring rod for all true affection.

Bill Pugh
UCA Pew Sheets

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



Food scraps, coffee grounds and leftovers can now be included in green lid bins throughout Moonee Valley. This will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. They can be placed directly in the bin, or you can wrap them in one sheet of newspaper or paper towelling. Do not wrap in plastic.

The collected garden and food waste is taken to the recycling facility at Bulla where it is transformed into compost, mulches and soil products.

Do not put in your bin

- Plastic bags (including biodegradable bags)
- Plastic wrapping (eg. cling wrap)
- Household garbage
- Liquids (eg. cooking oil)
- Treated or painted timber, large branches or logs



NEXT YEAR OUR GARDEN WILL BECOME A KEY PART OF OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WE NEED HELP TO KEEP UP THE WATERING DURING THE COMING SUMMER

IF YOU CAN WATER ON A REGULAR BASIS PLEASE TALK TO CANDACE

DROP IN ON A HOT DAY AND HELP TO KEEP THE PLANTS ALIVE

THE HOSES ARE LEFT OUT READY FOR USE. NO SKILL IS REQUIRED

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

December 13 to 23

62-64 Woodland St Strathmore

Come and see the outstanding light display designed by celebrated White Night illumination artist Projection Teknik

‘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

The four stages of a man's life - You believe in Santa Claus - You don't believe in Santa Claus - You become Santa Claus - You look like Santa Claus.

AVUC ROSTER - December – January 2019

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

	LEADER / COMMUNION	MUSIC	COUNTING	READER	WELCOM- ER	MORNING TEA
2 nd December	Bertram Mather	Rob	Peter	Angelika	Peter	Judy Angelika
9 th December	Keith Howden	Dorothy	Dorothy Judy	Melita	Michael	Barbara MaryCon
16 th December	Matt Julius	Julian	Candace Robin	Barbara	Fiona	Chris Angelika
23 rd December School Holi- days	Mark Dunn	Candace	Barbara Jean	Chris	Judy	Hamid Marjan
25 th December. Tuesday 9.30	Keith Howden	Candace	Dorothy	Angelika	Everyone	No Morning Tea
30 th December	T.B.A		Ken Angelika	Barbara	Peter	Angelika Judy
6 th January 2019	T.B.A		Robin Chen	Chris	Robin	Chris Barbara
13 th January	Gordon Bannon		Jean	Cally	Cally	Hamid Marjan
20 th January	Gordon Bannon		Judy Barbara	MaryCon	Peter	Angelika MaryCon
27 th January	T.B.A		Dorothy Michael	Angelika	Ken	Ken Jenny
3rd February	Service Induction 2pm					Lunch Afternoon Tea <u>Everyone is on duty</u>

Church contact phone numbers and emails

Church Council Chairperson, Michael Long: 0406 028 508 michaelphotoman@gmail.com
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 Church Office Phone 9370 3181

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Ian Pearse will be providing Pastoral Care until January.
 To speak with Ian or arrange a visit:

Mobile: 0411 771 853
 Email: enps@iinet.net.au

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you and your family
 hope, happiness and love.
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our
 church community*