



TRANSCEND

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

NOVEMBER
2017

Family Affection

"Most people would rather get than give affection."

Aristotle

Sometimes the flow of our life, and our reflections on our brokenness push us to be introspective and self-concerned.

We may be sensitive people whose affections may have been rejected or misinterpreted when we were young, so we turned to ourselves for the love we needed.

There is nothing wrong with needing love. Many people are afraid to admit this, because they fear rejection as soon as they make themselves vulnerable. Affection is necessary for growth and creative action in the world. Paul knew this when he encouraged Christians to love with a very particular kind of affection, 'family affection'. This involves a deep kind of bonding, and unconditional affection, which gives a person a strong platform from which to grow into their full stature as a person of God.

If we believe we are lovable, we will surely be loved. But we also need to love, and to make 'our love genuine', which will cost us something personally if we are deeply engaged with others.

But it's healthy for our souls to get out of ourselves and contemplate the characteristics of another person. Love of course is a two way process, giving as well as receiving. Some people have to feel themselves as lovable before they can fully reach out to others. We can learn to do this in our church groups and programs, where real friendship is on offer. We can also learn, by listening to others and giving feedback, that it is good to give as well as receive. Being healthy again means we have rediscovered these elements of love, which draw us beyond the narrow confines of our fears.

Jesus sent his followers out to new villages where he had not yet been. He told them to find people of peace, to put their feet under their table, to accept and eat non-kosher food, to heal what hurts, to share food and healing with all, and to stand against evil while announcing that the kingdom of God is at the doorstep. (Luke 10: 1-12) Behold new families of faith were formed, where people loved others from vastly different backgrounds with family affection.

A Maltese man did just that. He moved to Australia after World War II. He won the lottery! Rather than spending all the money on himself he bought a van. He turned the van into a 'food van', and proceeded to feed countless destitute starving people in Melbourne for decades. Why? The generous man said he remembered what desperation and hunger felt like during the war, when his country, Malta, was occupied by the Nazis.

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



Rev. Ron Rosinsky

November Events

Saturday 11 Nov: Men's Group dinner & discussion: 6-10 pm at the manse

Sunday 12 Nov: Soul Group 11:30-1pm

Sunday 19 November, working bee from 11:30am with shared lunch

Saturday 25 Nov: Family Fish & Chips, 6-10 pm, *Dine out*, venue to be confirmed

Sunday 26 November, 7:30 pm: Service - 'A Quiet Christmas'

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

Like this good man and our Christian forebears let's make our love genuine by loving with family affection. And let's gather together to open people's eyes to the kingdom, or *kingdom* of heaven in their midst; and pretty soon they will start to gather others who will do the same.

"Let love be genuine hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with family affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:10

Rev. Ron Rosinsky

Worship Services & Themes- 10 am Sundays

Sunday 5 November: Communion and All Saints Sunday : *'Will we learn lessons from our heroes and enemies?'* Matthew 23: 1-12

Sunday 12 November: *'Practise putting away your anxious thoughts'*
Matthew 25: 1-13 The ten bridesmaids

Sunday 19 November: **The baptism of Rashed Assadinejad** - *'Big things to live for- little things for which we sell our souls'*
Matthew 25: 14-30 The three servants and the buried silver

Sunday 26 November: Rev. Eileen Ray



On the Grapevine:

"It is easy to reject the concept of assisting those who have fallen through the cracks of modern society."

- Jeff Kennett,

commenting on the proposed establishment of a safe injecting room in Richmond

"I think its because Buddhism presents itself as a way of life, while Christianity presents itself as a system of belief."

- Dr. Peter Senge,

when asked why books on Buddhism were more popular than Christian books.

"The secret of self confidence and courage hinges on the kind of thoughts you think..."

The basis of confidence in yourself is simply to realize that you are a child of God and that "the kingdom of God is within you."

This means that within you is a rich vein of understanding, insight and strength for surmounting difficulties and attaining goals."

- Norman Vincent Peale

"God is not only fatherly, God is also mother who lifts her loved child from the ground to her knee.

The Trinity is like a mother's cloak wherein the child finds a home and lays its head on the maternal breast."

- Mechtild of Madgeburg

Ron has recently commenced working .8 within the church - four days per week, from .6
As approved at the last Church Council meeting.

A Quiet Christmas



**Sunday 26 November,
7:30 pm:**
Join us as we prepare for
the Christmas season.

A quiet service of music,
meditation and reflection
before the Christmas
rush.

A time to pray for the world.
Followed by a Christmas supper.



Great music from our two fine musicians
Tim and Lucas

Kid's Uniting

A modern Sunday school program
for children



Join teachers Cat & Fiona

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

Men's Group

All men welcome



Join us on Saturday 11 November, 6 - 10pm

At the manse - 50a Maribyrnong Rd.
Moonee Ponds

Dinner & Discussion
'Men & their relationships'

You're Invited!

Kid's Uniting will be having an Exhibition of
their work on November 5th.

It will be in the Kid's Uniting Rooms. Pop in
after the service for a look.

Your interest encourages the children and
their teachers..

'FAMILY SOCIAL NIGHT'

(Fish and Chips Night)

Saturday 25th November 6-10pm

Join us for a Dine out

Venue to be confirmed
by Michael

LOTS OF HELPERS NEEDED

On Sunday 19 November, from 11:30am. after the service.
we will be having a working bee to weed the church garden,
Wear your gardening clothes and please join in helping to
clean up the weeds in the garden

After working for a time we will have a shared lunch,
Please bring a plate of food to share.

SOUL GROUP

You are welcome to come along and join in after
the service on Sunday 12 November:
Soul Group for spiritual formation, topic:
'Am I an 'original blessing' or piece of original sin?'
11:30-1pm, middle room at Church

Harvest Swap

**The next Harvest Swap will be on
November 26th. following the service.**
Bring along plants or anything else related to gar-
dening to swap or share.
Come and meet people who share an interest in
growing plants.
Get advice from some of the more experienced
growers.

In your diary for 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.*



Rev Mark October 29th



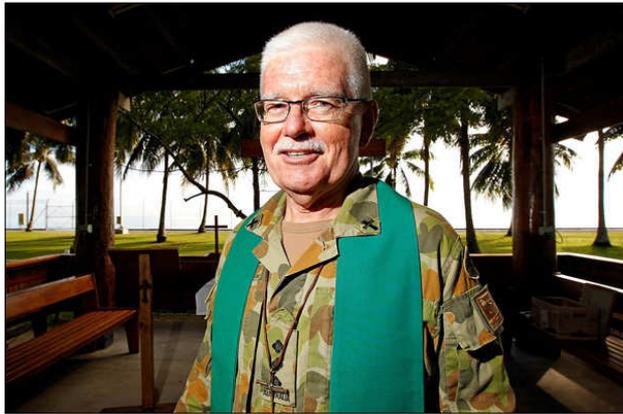
Staying in our campervan for 2 weeks allowed us to get quite close to nature. Here are a couple of black bear cubs we saw crossing the highway. We also spotted 2 grizzly bears from the road.



Above: Our Lady of Victory church at Inuvik, NWT (more famous as the "Igloo Church". Designed and built by a catholic missionary without any architectural training in the 1950s.



Below: learning Inuit beading from a Gwitch'in elder



As we Commemorate Remembrance Day we Affirm the Place of ADF Chaplains

45 ordained ministers are endorsed by the Uniting Church to serve as Australian Defence Force Chaplains. 18 are full-time and 27 are reservists across the three services, Army, Navy and Air Force. Two are preparing to deploy overseas and two have recently returned to Australia from operations. We take our Uniting Church place at the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS)

through Rev Dr Murray Earl, our National Assembly appointed RACS member who is himself a former RAAF Principal Chaplain.

ADF Chaplaincy is a ministry of the Church through which God has called us, so we base our legitimacy on the Church's ministry. This is a public ministry in a secular context which the ADF recognises to be significant and valuable. We serve not because we are warmongers, but because we are being faithful to our calling to exercise ministry to and with women and men in uniform. The freedom of religious practice and the encouragement to practise and observe faith in all situations underpins the provision of Chaplaincy for members of the ADF.

The prophet declares: ... ***and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.*** (Isaiah 2:4) When the day comes that we can disband the ADF and Australia can redeploy the defence budget to education, health care and overseas aid, I for one will be exceedingly glad.

Until that idyllic time, I believe we have a duty to provide the best possible ministrations to ADF members. Under government direction, Australian women and men who have volunteered and trained for the profession of arms sometimes find themselves in harm's way. In those circumstances especially, they need the care and support of Chaplains.

The duties Rev Ron and I perform as serving Army Chaplains include:

- providing religious and spiritual ministry to ADF members and their families, Church parades, memorial services, commemorative events and referrals to other religious leaders as appropriate
- delivering pastoral care to ADF members and their families
- conducting character training instruction
- advising Commanders on religious and moral matters, welfare and morale
- providing welfare assistance as part of the unit welfare team

We are non-combatants in the Rules of Engagement as understood by the Geneva Convention. This means we are not engaged in the business of war fighting, but rather like doctors and nurses, we fulfil a speciality role which is clearly understood and well-defined.

Working with the increasingly diverse and non-religious younger demographic of the ADF, spirituality is often presented by Chaplains as an invisible weapon. The Psalmist phrased it with different wording but the concept remains the same. ***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.*** (Psalm 46:1) If spirituality is an invisible weapon, then we should not store it or safeguard it in a dusty shoebox in the garage or attic.* We should carry it with us as a shield of defence and Chaplains can be a vital means of helping ADF members appropriate that understanding.

(* 'Warrior Culture, Spirituality and Prayer' by Mark Malmin; Pub 22 February 2013 © Springer Science + Business Media, New Your 2013)

Defence Chaplaincy is sometimes lonely, raw, challenging, boring and stressful. Whether conducting a ramp ceremony for the latest casualty of war, performing a baptism for a new follower of Jesus, negotiating a compassionate return to Australia for a member whose mother has died or waiting under a tree for transport after weeks of training in the bush, we do so under holy orders and only because our Church has endorsed this vital ministry.

PTO

I find it immensely fulfilling to maintain the rich and selfless century of tradition as a minister in uniform serving alongside others we identify with wearing a similar uniform. This practice of incarnational ministry inspires our duty and delight and we dare not drop the torch.

Incidentally it is also the most successful and longstanding ecumenical ministry endeavour Australia has ever seen and as a committed ecumenist, I am deeply grateful for this dimension of ADF Chaplaincy.

In this season of remembrance, we honour the sacrifice of those who have gone before us, we abhor the tragedy of war and we faithfully work and serve alongside those who are entrusted by our government to protect Australia and its people.

As Chaplains, we rely on the keen and prayerful support of our church as we serve under our ultimate commander, the God who breathed life into our beings and who loves each one of those with whom we serve.

Padre Mark Dunn

FROM THE TREASURER – Peter Macdonald

Offerings

If you wish to contribute via direct credit please see Peter Macdonald .

If you wish to contribute via regular envelopes there are a still number of envelopes available on the table in the gathering space.

Income and Expenses

Offerings	\$ 1982
Fundraising	\$ 1047
Appeals	\$ 0
Donations	\$ 100
Building Users	\$ 4957
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 8086</u>

Ministry	\$ 5100
Mission & Service	\$ 0
Property	\$ 3802
Other	\$ 585
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 9487</u>

Deficit for September \$1,401

**Deficit for year through August
\$24,886**

Finance Committee

The finance committee met on Thursday October 26th 7.30 pm at the church and reviewed

- Arrangements to cover treasurers functions next year
- Implementation of electronic payments
- Tenant rental rates for 2018
- Arrangements for employment of gardener
- Income, Expenditure and balances through September 2017 were reviewed.

The next finance committee meeting will be held Thursday December 7th 7.30 pm at the church

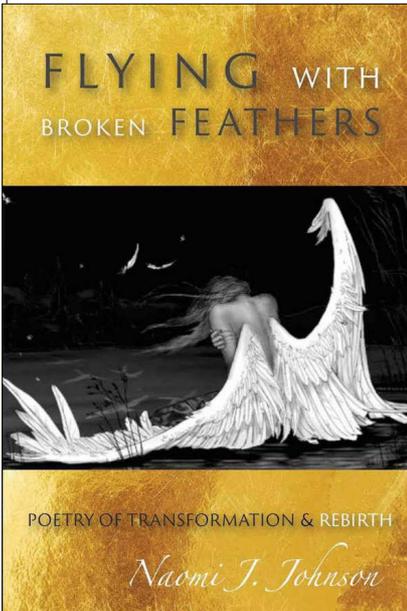
Cards are available for those using Direct Debit to place in the collection bag. They are on the table near the name tags.

'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



We acknowledge and give thanks that the land on which our church building stands is country for which the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation are the traditional custodians.

We honour their elders past and present and commit ourselves to work for reconciliation and justice.



BOOK REVIEW: 'FLYING WITH BROKEN FEATHERS'

Author: Naomi Johnson

Reviewer: Rev Faith Johnson

I am sitting at my desk with tears running down my face. I am reading a young woman's blog. I have read it many times before, but it always makes me cry.

She is describing how early one Sunday morning she stood at the top of the cliffs in Newcastle, preparing to throw herself down onto the jagged rocks and broiling waves below. It was a day, she says, when **"I could not see a way clear. I could not see a future other than the one that was killing me. I could not see hope, or that I was worthy of something more. As far as I could see, the darkness had entirely overwhelmed the light."**

She had lived for 10 years in what she describes as *"the bleakness of living in a domestic violence war zone."* The cathedral choir in which she sings was **"the one point of safety in what was narrowing down to a small and hostile universe."**

So she stood looking **"at the oblivion of rocks and waves. All the things that meant anything to me were screaming distantly in my head, but they weren't loud enough to penetrate the foggy despair. I didn't feel frightened; all I had was a sense of relief."**

Then **"I was visited by a thought: 'Fuck, we're singing the Missa Aeterna today, if I do this, if I step off the edge and commit myself to the rocks below I'll miss out on Palestrina.' So I climbed back over the fence, walked down the steps, got in my car and drove to a rehearsal at the cathedral as if nothing had happened."**

She goes on to describe Palestrina as her **"five hundred year old life raft"** and writes that **"my mum says that she blesses Palestrina for that moment in my life."**

And I know she does, because I am that mother.

How does a mother cope, knowing that her daughter came that close to no longer being here?

It's hard. And, rightly or wrongly, I carry a lot of guilt. Could I have intervened? Was I too concerned with not being an **"interfering old mother-in-law"** that I let my daughter suffer the beatings, the rapes, the knives held to the throat, the **"falling down the stairs"** for too long?

For I did sense that all was not well as I watched my daughter become someone different: more closed, more introverted, with a smile still on her face, but one that no longer reached her eyes.

It was easy to put the change down to her marrying young and having to adjust to the change from being a student to a married woman. To the distance, as most of those ten years they lived in Victorian country or Interstate. To the demands of her juggling a social work career with being a clergy wife.

My questions were always met with plausible replies, even if they left me uneasy, feeling like she was trying to protect her husband from me. Three years before she found the extraordinary courage to leave, I finally asked the question, **"does he hit you?"** I didn't believe the reply, but let it go, not wanting her to think that I didn't trust her.

Should I have pushed harder? Should I have spoken to her husband?

I know now that the one Christmas when I gently expressed to him my disappointment that they had not at least called in on Christmas day, despite, for the only time in their marriage, their living only twenty minutes away, it resulted in another beating and rape.

She left him four years ago. But even now when I hear about yet another woman killed by an ex-partner, I cringe and imagine the worst.

PTO

I'm fortunate that my daughter is now rebuilding her life, while fighting the demons of PTSD. For a long while she couldn't talk about what had happened, but expressed her pain in her writing and poetry. Hard as it was, I read every one; and let her know that she was loved and had worth, that everyone could see the beauty in her soul, even if, at times, she couldn't see it herself.

It was a long, hard road, with lots of set-backs, and only now am I seeing the daughter I once had.

I wish that no other mother would have to go through this; but I know this is a forlorn hope. All I can say is trust your intuition, question if it feels right, bite your tongue if it doesn't. Above all, keep the communication channels open. Let your child know that she is loved, no matter what; that you are always there, loving, not judging.

Pray. Love your child with open arms. Pray some more. And I will pray that your daughter will find the courage to leave and rebuild her life.

The author of this article is Rev Faith Johnson. Faith is a long time friend and former associate minister of Rev Mark Dunn at St John's Uniting Church, Essendon.

Naomi's blog can be found at naomijohnson.wordpress.com and her poetry in *Flying with Broken Feathers* published by Tayen Lane in 2014. Copies in Australia are available from Rev Faith, \$25 paperback, \$30 hard cover. Contact Faith on faithnaomijohnson@gmail.com

It is also available for \$14.99 on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Mac.

Amazon <https://www.amazon.com.au/Flying-Broken-Feathers-Naomi-Johnson-ebook/dp/B00N8F5ME8> for Kindle for \$11.99.

Article provided by Rev Mark Dunn

AVUC ROSTER, November 2017 – Jan 2018

DATE	LEADER	COM-MUNION	DUTY ELDER	MUSIC	WELCOMER	READER	MORNING TEA
5 November Communion	Rev Ron	Angelika	Dorothy	Julian	Robin	Chris	Chris/Francois
12 November Family Service	Rev Ron		Noel	Rob	Judy	Angelika	Marycon/Judy
19 November	Rev Ron		Michael	Dorothy	Michael	Candace	Bente/Anneke
26 November Garden Swap	Rev Eileen		Dina	Candace	Ken/David	Ken	Ken/Jenny
3 December Communion	Rev Ron	Dina	Dorothy	Julian	Peter	Peter	Chris/Angelika
10 December Family Service Kids Uniting finish	Rev Ron		Noel	Rob	Noel	Anneke	Anneke/Francois
17 December	Rev Ron		Michael	Candace	Cally	Cally	Judy/Marycon
24 December Christmas Eve	Rev Ron		Dina	Julian	Robin	Chris	Hamid/Rashed
25 December Christmas Day	Rev Ron		Dorothy	Rob	David/ Dorothy	David	Bente/Angelika
31 December Garden Swap	Rev Mark		Noel	Dorothy	Judy	Barbara	Judy/Marycon
7 January 2018 Communion	Rev Ron	Dorothy	Dorothy	Candace	Ken	Ken	Ken/Jenny
14 January	Rev Ron		Michael	Julian	Michael	Melita	Chris/ Angelika
21 January	Rev Ron		Noel	Rob	Cally	Cally	Bente/David
28 January	Rev Eileen		Dorothy	Candace	Noel	Noel	Anneke/Francois