

January

2 **No C@C**

9 **Spiritual Practices for the New Year**

16 **On art and the spiritual life: Teryl Viner**

Noted artist, recipient of numerous awards, and Community Church member, Teryl Viner, will talk to us about her art and the creative process. Her work has been displayed all over the country, and you can see one of her pieces hanging in the foyer of our Grace Chapel.

23 **The Citrus State: Heather Stapleton**

When we refer to the term Indian River Citrus, we are talking about fruit that comes from a thin 200mi stretch of land, on the western bank of the Indian River Lagoon - not just fruit that comes from Indian River County; in fact, the area is so narrow that only one county falls entirely within the district – St Lucie County. Only fruit from this area may be legally referred to as “Indian River Fruit” – that phrase is protected by the Federal Trade Commission. In 1807 or so, Colonel Thomas Dummitt of the British Marines sailed past Merritt Island while on his way to St. Augustine. According to local legend, Colonel Dummitt was overwhelmed with the smell of wild orange blossoms as they passed through. They were curious; and the rest, as they say, is history... Heather Stapleton will talk with us about the historical significance of Indian River Citrus, its heyday and its current challenges.

30 **Annual Meeting: No Session**

February

6 The Paradox of Religious Liberty

Bob Inhoff and Don Stoner lead us in a look at the historical and continuing lessons of the paradoxical nature of religious liberty: “I can only have religious liberty for myself when I embrace religious liberty for others, whose beliefs may be far different from my own.”

13 Embracing and Sustaining Community

The yin and yang of community and diversity. How the focus on individualism has presented a challenge to achieving and belonging in communities that consist of diverse cultures and beliefs. Don Stoner and Bob Inhoff help us find approaches to overcoming these challenges to more fully embrace our founding vision?

20 The Challenge of Paul

Paul is one of Christianity’s most impactful, yet most debated and misunderstood figures. In “The Challenge of Paul,” noted author and speaker, John Dominic Crossan, gives us the benefit of his lifelong search for the Paul of history to create a new understanding that sheds new light on Paul and why he is more relevant than ever today. In preparation for the talks to be given by Dominic Crossan, we will view and discuss a dvd that introduces the person of Paul and orients us to the way that Dr. Crossan understands his ministry and writings.

27 Dominic Crossan: The Challenge of Paul

This week Dr. Crossan will be with us to bring Paul “alive” with his distinctive presentation style. In this provocative series, Crossan confronts our traditional understanding about Paul that seems to support anti-homosexuality, slavery, patriarchy, and the subjugation of women. At 6 p.m. he will present “Luke and the Apostle” and at 7 p.m. his lecture will be titled, “Equality and the legacy of Paul.”

March

6 **Ash Wednesday: No Session**

13 **The history and plight of refugees around the world:** 4 and 6pm
Dr. Safa Saraçoğlu is a professor of history at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, focusing on Middle East and Islamic Studies with a particular focus on the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans. He will talk at 4 and 6 p.m. on the status and plight of refugees in Europe and around the world who seek a safe place to call home.

4 p.m. **Peace and hospitality: the intricate relationship between citizens and refugees.**

This talk will explore the connection between peace, governance, citizenship and hospitality with references to Immanuel Kant's Perpetual Peace (1795) which serves as a basis for our modern understanding of refugees.

6 p.m. **Suffering in transition: how do rules and regulations define the rights and agony of refugees.** This talk will examine some of the rules and regulations that define the procedures of becoming a refugee and explain how such rules and procedures define the suffering of displaced persons.

20 **Saving Jesus: The Teachings of Jesus**

Most acknowledge that Jesus was a great teacher. And how did he do it? With humor, story, irony, metaphor, and short sayings—all of which were used to make his audience think for themselves. It was a technique that was rabbinic, to be sure—but even more specifically, it was typical of wisdom teachers. Wisdom literature is concerned about the meaning of life, but is not very concerned with traditional religious thought. Come and learn about Jesus' unique teaching and teaching styles.

27 **Saving Jesus: Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God**

One thing most New Testament scholars agree on—and they don't agree on much—is that Jesus' main aim was the Kingdom of God. Jesus expressed it in his teachings and with his life. He proclaimed it and enacted it. In Matthew, Mark and Luke it's all Jesus ever talks about, mostly in parables and aphorisms. But as Walter Brueggemann points out, "He never could prescribe the Kingdom." He could only offer hints of it. What is this kingdom to which Jesus pointed, and how much longer before it is realized? Join us in this session to help figure that out.

April

3 Saving Jesus: The Ministry of Compassion

Who is it that stretches your capacity to love—to be compassionate? The poor? The immigrant? The sick or ugly or angry or forgetful? Do you find yourself suffering from “compassion fatigue”? Jesus said, “Do to others as you would have them do to you. Love your enemies, do good, and lend to them, expecting nothing in return. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked—so go and do likewise: be merciful, be compassionate.” In this session we explore and discuss the principle and practice of compassion in the real world.

10 Saving Jesus: Atonement

For many Christians, the “good news” is solely about what’s called the “saving work” of Jesus, achieved by his vicarious and atoning death on the cross. And yet, many New Testament scholars argue that some early streams of Christianity flowed with little or no mention of Jesus’ suffering and death. For those early Christians it was Jesus’ life and example, his teaching and healing that were important. But at the opposite extreme, we’ve got the Apostle Paul preaching “Christ crucified!” with little mention of Jesus’ earthly life. This session explores the meaning and purpose of Jesus’ death.

17 Holy Week. No Session

24 Saving Jesus: Resurrection

Like the birth narratives, each gospel tells a different version of the events for Easter. From who saw what first, to the number of angels at the tomb, to Jesus’ appearance; all vary from book to book. Counting Paul, there are really five distinct accounts of Easter, none of which were written by a contemporary of Jesus, much less by an eyewitness. In this session we seek to understand the accounts of Jesus’ resurrection and how we make sense of them.