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

Indian River has been known for its citrus production, but did you know that citrus fruits are not native to Florida, or to the United States at all? Heather Stapleton comes to us from the Indian River Citrus Museum in Vero Beach to talk with us about the past, present, and future of citrus fruits, and some of the important food issues that affect it.

30 Annual Meeting: No Session

February

6 Bob Inhoff and Don Stoner:

13 Bob and Don

20 Whose lives matter?

Black lives matter! Blue lives matter! All lives matter! Whose lives matter…to us? To our culture? To our God? In a world in which so many feel as if their lives don’t matter, this session acknowledges that the concerns of people and groups are easily dismissed, and seeks to view them through the lens of the Christian faith.

27 Dominic Crossan: Paul’s message to America

Noted author and pastor, John Dominic Crossan, will speak at 6pm and 7pm (with box lunches available for dinner at 5 p.m.) about the Apostle Paul, and what he might have to say to America today.

March

6 Ash Wednesday: No Session

13 The history and plight of refugees around the world: 4 and 6pm

Dr. 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.

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.