

Being



Be the *change* you wish to see in the *world*. ~Gandhi

Winter 2007

Being human...

"Your daily life is your temple and your religion. Whenever you enter into it, take with you your **all**." ~Kahlil Gibran

In our daily lives with each new experience of God within, God between, and God beyond, our ideas on religion expand and evolve.

Experience this dynamic, evolving community as we walk together into the new year on our unique spiritual paths. Through our gathering together we are inspired to go out and be the change that we wish to see in the world.

Evolution and faith

Sundays, January 28 and February 4

"The misfortune that has overtaken the spiritual outlook of man is that as his universe expanded, his conception of the deity did not expand with it."

~ F. Wood Jones, *Design and Purpose*

Don't miss our evolution series leading up to Evolution Sunday (February 4) as Ian takes a look at the ways science and religion coincide to shape our way of being in the world. Come explore what it means to evolve.

Religion & Science 101

The Institute of Progressive Christianity is offering its second course, "Religion and Science 101," which will be led by Ian Lawton and Howard Van Till.

This course is perfect for anyone looking to explore a more in-depth approach to science and spirituality and, in particular, the debate over evolution.

Based on the recent issue of 'What is Enlightenment' magazine, this course will explore the debates of Creation vs. Evolution, Darwinism vs. Intelligent Design, offering a complex and nuanced look at one of the greatest mysteries of the modern era.

The class begins Wednesday, January 31, and will run for three consecutive weeks at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per session.

Special gatherings

Honoring the Divine Feminine

Join us Sunday, February 11, as we honor women and celebrate the Divine Feminine within us all. This gathering will feature wonderful expressions of artistic gifts including a presentation of a banner honoring women of our own community.

The spirit of Mardi Gras

Our annual Mardi Gras celebration takes place Sunday, February 18. Don't miss all the fun of this wonderful community celebration.

Lent: Preparing for a new Jesus

Many religious teachers have proclaimed the twenty-first century the "age of interspirituality." In our world today there has been an increased sharing of ultimate experiences among people of different spiritual traditions. As our experiences of other cultures and times expands, so does our perspective on the world and ourselves. This Lenten season we will re-examine Jesus from a multitude of perspectives and traditions, as we anticipate the resurrection of a new Jesus.

A rabbi's view of Jesus



Mark your calendars for March 17-18 as the Center for Religion and Life presents acclaimed Jewish, mystical writer, **Rabbi Rami Shapiro**.

The theme of the weekend will be 'Jesus: The God Intoxicated Jewish Mystic.' Rami Shapiro will be speaking at two morning lectures on Saturday, March 17, and will be preaching at our Sunday gathering on March 18.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro has been called a "Stand Up Mystic," the "Jewish Alan Watts," and a "Holy Rascal." He is a funny, entertaining, iconoclastic, and insightful teacher who loves to help people wake up to the presence of GID. While grounded in Jewish spiritual teachings, Rabbi Rami Shapiro creates a bridge between traditions, and brings an inter-spiritual dimension to the human quest for wisdom.

"Rami is one of the best bridges of eastern and western wisdom."

~Genpo Roshi, Kanzeon Zen Center

You will not want to miss the incredible opportunity to hear this unique spiritual guru who, when asked to describe himself, says, "I am Jewish by birth, and a rabbi by training, but I have gone beyond both in my explorations of how to awaken the Divine in all things . . . that's what drives me."

Ticket information and weekend schedule details will be available soon.



Christ Community Church Being human. Being love

Spiritual practice

Join us for a community soup lunch on Sunday, February 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Following the soup lunch, Ian will lead a Big Mind session beginning at 12:30 p.m. and concluding at 3:00 p.m.

Big Mind is an interactive exercise that offers an insight into the heart of all spiritual traditions. Genpo Roshi, who trained Ian, is one of the preeminent Zen Masters in the Western world and developed this revolutionary exercise using Voice Dialogue. It's a simple and fun process that is well suited to our western, inquisitive minds and offers a glimpse of the divine seed within.

The last Big Mind session sold out very quickly. Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 616.842.1985.

Global wine event

Join us Friday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlour for a global celebration of wine. Bring a bottle of your favorite wine and an appetizer to share. You'll not only have a great time trying new wines and good food, but you may also learn a bit about wine from around the world.

Which country is the largest wine producer? How many different types of wine grapes exist worldwide? Come to learn about wine, and possibly walk away with some prizes.

Whether you're a wine expert, a beginner or would just like to hang out, this will be an evening you won't want to miss! (One bottle of wine per person please).

Sign up by calling the church office 616.842.1985 or at the Growing Place on Sunday mornings.

Harry T. Cook brunch

We are pleased to welcome Harry T. Cook, an Episcopal minister, journalist and author. Cook is a member of the faculty of the International Institute for Secular Humanist Judaism. He has been rector of St. Andrew's Church in Clawson, Michigan since 1987. Cook has also worked as a weekly editor and columnist for the *Detroit Free Press* focusing on ethics and public policy. Cook's continuing area of research is First Century Greek texts. He is working on a book with the tentative title "Jesus Without God: Ethics & Agnosticism in the New Testament."

- **Sunday, February 11**
- **11:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m.**
- **Cost: \$15 (includes brunch)**

Cook's lecture will be on *Christianity and Empire: "Thank You for Nothing, Constantine!"*

For more information, check out his website at www.harrytcook.com. To purchase tickets, call 616.842.1985. Tickets must be purchased by February 5.

You can be the change

C³/CCC partners with KIDS HOPE USA to provide mentors for Holmes Elementary School students in Spring Lake. There are currently 29 children at Holmes Elementary in need of a mentor. For just one hour a week through the end of the school year, you could make a profound difference in the life of a child in our community. Please consider this incredible opportunity to be the change you wish to see in the world.

For more information, please call Sarah Jane at 616.842.1985.

Website revamp

The C³/CCC website is going through a transformation and will have new features and a new design very soon. We hope this will help facilitate better communication. Check us out online at www.christ-community.net.



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