



# Starting January 11!

## *Introduction to the New Testament*

### Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher

This winter and spring, the adult education planning team at St. Peter's is offering a university-level class in New Testament theology and history led by Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher, a regular (and very popular!) Sunday-morning adult education teacher here. This is a follow-up to the highly successful "Introduction to the Old Testament" class that Daniel led at St. Peter's last fall. We'll study from the same textbook and reading assignments as Daniel's students at Loyola Marymount University. Take advantage of this opportunity to study this material without the pressure of exams and grades!

The class will meet two hours on Wednesday evenings for a 15-week fall semester. To cover the costs for the class, it will be necessary to charge \$100 per student (scholarships are available-contact Rev. Barbara Buck at 377-6882 ext. 229 for information). The class will be publicized throughout the South Bay. Daniel has a significant following in the area and it is our hope that we will have a truly interfaith group of students from a variety of faith traditions joining us.

*While the depth of the lectures and discussions will be at a university-level course, this class is designed for all regardless of their Bible background.*

**Daniel L. Smith-Christopher, DPhil**, Professor of Theological Studies, has taught Old Testament at Loyola Marymount University since 1989. A frequent teacher and speaker in Adult Education in many ecumenical contexts, he is the author of dozens of scholarly articles and nine major books, including his most recent, *Jonah, Jesus, and Other Good Coyotes* (Abingdon Press, 2007). Smith-Christopher, raised a Quaker, completed his BA at George Fox University in his native Oregon, and then studied at the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (MDiv). He completed his PhD at Oxford University in England before living in Israel/Palestine for two years as a volunteer Peace Worker with the British Quakers. Dr. Christopher appears regularly on television as a consultant and scholarly commentator on documentaries broadcast by A&E, Discovery, the History Channel, and most recently, The National Geographic Network and PBS.



## Adult Spiritual Growth Learning Opportunities Winter/Spring 2012

Class	Jan 2012			Feb 2012				Mar 2012				Apr 2012				May 2012							
	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26	3/4	3/11	3/18	3/25	4/1	4/8	4/15	4/22	4/29	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27		
1 The Problem of Evil																							
2 Living the Sermon on the Mount																							
3 Spiritual Reading of the Scriptures																							
4 The Judaism Jesus Knew																							
5 A Storyteller Called John																							
6 Reflections of a Modern American Imam																							

## Bible and the Blues!

### January 22, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of Bible study and Blues! Using live music by veteran blues musicians Bernie Pearl and Michael Barry along with scholarly research, Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher of Loyola Marymount University will look at striking parallels between the personal pains, sufferings and eventual hope inscribed in blues music and the biblical themes of lament, sadness and hope in the Old Testament's often overlooked Book of Lamentations.



"The blues reminds us that we have suffered, others suffer and we have the right to call to God and to each other," says Dr. Smith-Christopher, "as Christians we can enjoy the blues not because that is how life always is, but because we have the right to call out to God our pain and the pain of others."



**The Problem of Evil**  
January 8-15



*Thomas Callow*

We will use two lectures by UVA's Professor Charles Matthews as springboards for a discussion of evil as a product of human rivalry with God. Texts that we will consider include the Hebrew Bible's stories of Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, the Tower of Babel, Abraham, and Job.

Tom Callow is a retired foreign service officer with Masters degrees in Old Testament from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and in Northwest Semitic (Hebrew Bible) from Johns Hopkins.

**Living the Sermon on the Mount:  
A Practical Hope for Grace and Deliverance**  
January 22-February 12

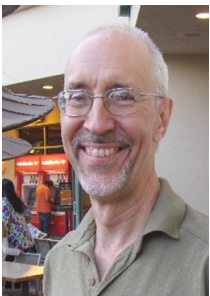


*Dr. Glen Stassen*

Theologian and award-winning author Glen H. Stassen helps us to see that the revolutionary ideas in the Sermon on the Mount about loving and caring for each other, living in peace, and acting justly are not unattainable ideals but a recipe for wholeness and healing in our human relationships, and deliverance from the vicious cycles in which we get stuck.

Dr. Stassen is the Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

**Spiritual Reading of the Scriptures:  
The Blessing of Word and Spirit.**  
February 19-March 4



*Dr. James Findlay*

Rev. Dr. James D. Findlay will explore the history, tradition, methodology, and practice of lectio divina, or spiritual reading. We will experience how spiritual reading can assist in discerning healthy and helpful truth within difficult or troubling biblical texts, as well as contribute to personal and communal spiritual growth and development.

Rev. Dr. Findlay is currently is a Lecturer in the Religious Studies Department at California State University, Northridge.

**The Judaism Jesus Knew**  
March 11-April 1

This class will look at the Jewish worship and culture that Jesus would have known during his lifetime. We will explore its evolution and the effects resulting from the political, economic, cultural, and religious influences acting on it.

Bob Rothman is currently the Chair of the Dawn Unity group and moderator of its Interfaith Discovery Series panel discussions and Chair of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board at Loyola Marymount University.



*Bob Rothman*

**A Storyteller Called John**  
April 15-May 6

We never outgrow the enjoyment of a good story. If you are trying to remember where a story is about a certain character and you remember that it is a sizeable narrative, chances are good that it is going to be found in the Gospel of John. John was a storyteller. Join us as we cover four of the stories in this gospel and see what we can discover about the characters, about the evangelist, and about ourselves.

Rev. Dr. Judy Yates Siker is Research Professor of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.



*Dr. Judy Siker*

**Reflections of a Modern American Imam:  
What Can Islam Teach Christians?**  
May 13-27

Imam Turk will tell the story of his spiritual journey into Islam and share his reflections on his experiences living and studying in Saudi Arabia and Iran. He will also address contemporary issues related to the Muslim world and the American Muslim experience.

Jihad Turk is the Director of Religious Affairs at the Islamic Center of Southern California. In addition to serving the religious needs of his community, Jihad focuses much of his attention on interfaith work.



*Imam Jihad Turk*