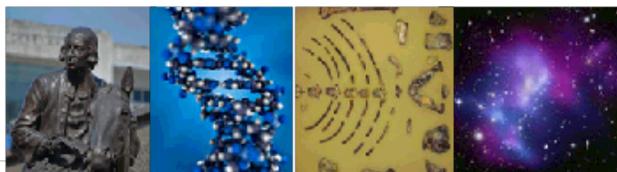


# WesleyNexus

*Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition*



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October 28, 2012

## Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

Below you will find a variety of posts related to the science and religion dialogue. I hope you will find something of interest. We at WesleyNexus are constantly on the lookout for resources that will enrich our understanding and widen the scope of our community. If you run across something on the web that fits our mission, please let us know.

Note: WesleyNexus does not endorse any of the views presented below but we think it is important to the dialogue that a variety of thoughtful opinions be made available to our participants.

### Book Review

Dr. Walter Shropshire has reviewed a recent book by Dave Pruett, **Reason and Wonder: A Copernican Revolution in Science and Spirit**. Dr. Pruett was a NASA researcher and computational scientist. He is also emeritus professor of mathematics at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Walt Shropshire is the President emeritus of WesleyNexus and is a frequent reviewer for WesleyNexus. His review can be found [here](#).

### Your Brain on Prayer

“**Through the Wormhole**” is a Discovery Channel program narrative by Morgan Freeman. In a recent video, Andrew Newburg’s research is featured on prayer and brain activity. A short clip from the program can be found [here](#).

### Evolution Weekend: Webcast Video on February 10, 2013

Chicago's Adler Planetarium and the popular internet television studio **Darkwood Brew** ([www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org)) will offer a fully interactive telecast called “**Evolving Universe, Evolving Faith**” featuring top theologians and scientists. The program, which will stream in high definition video from Darkwood Brew's web studio in Omaha, will highlight current theories concerning the evolution of the universe and the implications they hold for faith in the modern world.

A live chat will be enabled for viewers who choose to enter conversation with others from around the world or field questions to the guests. Darkwood Brew ([www.darkwoodbrew.org](http://www.darkwoodbrew.org)) is run out of **Countryside Community Church** in Omaha, NE with Clergy Letter Project member, **Rev. Eric Elnes** in charge. Programs are broadcast live every Sunday, 6pm EST/5pm CST (rebroadcast with live chat at 10pm EST/9 CST).

To have your congregation participate, please register with the Clergy Letter Project at [www.evolutionweekend.org](http://www.evolutionweekend.org).

## **The Brain and Reason**

For those in the Wesleyan tradition, there are four sources of authority: scripture, tradition, experience and reason. In the NY Times regular series of essays in philosophy called “The Stone,” a discussion on the nature of reason was published. The conversation is based on the work of Jonathon Haidt whose recent book, *The Righteous Mind*, has stimulated a great deal of discussion. The articles can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Nexus Methodist Church in Bath, England**

While searching for science and religion content on the web, I came across a discussion group in England to share. Nexus Methodist Church (note that it is not a United Methodist Church) has initiated a Science and Religion Discussion Group. Last September, the program was led by Dr. Mike Danson, a research biochemist at the University of Bath. On their website, Nexus Methodist has posted a summary of the program and has made available the Powerpoint slides of Dr. Danson’s program that can be found [here](#). Their next meeting will be on December 13th at 7:45. If you happen to be in the area, please take some time and say hello.

Dr. Danson’s academic information can be found [here](#).

## **Berea College "Science and Faith" Home Page**

Though not as up-to-date as many sites on the web, Berea College has posted a “Science and Faith” home page hosted by Dr. Robert Schneider. Dr. Schneider is a retired professor of general studies and professor of classical languages. He taught courses in Latin and Greek languages and literatures, and also general studies courses that explored topics in biblical literature, the history of Christian thought, the history of science, classical mythology, and contemporary fiction. The site contains a number of essays under the following headings:

- I. INTRODUCTION  
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CREATION
- II. THEOLOGY OF CREATION: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND  
FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS
- III. DOES THE BIBLE TEACH SCIENCE?
- IV. INTRODUCTION II  
BIG BANG AND THE UNIVERSE STORY
- V. EVOLUTION FOR CHRISTIANS
- VI. HUMAN EVOLUTION AND THE IMAGE OF GOD
- VII. INTRODUCTION III  
THEOLOGIES OF AN EVOLVING CREATION
- VIII. YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM

These essays are in keeping with the Christian mission of Berea College whose motto is “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth.” The essays can be found [here](#).

## **Online Textbook: Philosophy of Religion by Dr. Phillip Pecorino**

Phillip Pecorino is professor of philosophy at City University of New York and Queensborough Community College. On his personal web site, he has posted a rich assortment of materials including an e-text book on philosophy of religion. The third chapter is dedicated to a discussion of science and religion from an historical and an issues perspective. This text can be found [here](#).

In addition, he has posted a number of books that are of interest to those engaged in the science and religion dialogue. See the links below for each of the texts.

1. [Introduction to Philosophy. 2001](#) \_
2. [Philosophy of Religion. 2002](#)
3. [Perspectives on Death and Dying 2003](#)
4. [Ethics. with Stephen O'Sullivan 2002.](#)
5. [Medical Ethics. 2004](#)
6. [Computers, Information Technologies, the Internet, Ethics, Society and Human Values 2006](#)

### **Contribute to WesleyNexus Through Paypal**

As WesleyNexus continues to grow in our promotion of science and religion dialogue across the country, additional expenses are being incurred that put pressure on the modest financial resources currently available for this effort. To extend the offerings of resources, programs and networking, WesleyNexus has now made it possible to donate online through Paypal. The Donate button is on the main page and allows anyone with a credit card and an email address to access Paypal's secure payment process. Our main objective is to secure enough funds before December 31 to upgrade the website permitting continuous dialogue among those in a our growing online community. Since WesleyNexus has no employees, no offices, and only minimal operational expenses (web registration and hosting, program promotion and a few office supplies), nearly 100% of each donation goes towards science and religion dialogue and networking. Please consider donating today. No amount is too little. All contributions will be properly acknowledged for tax purposes. If you have any questions concerning our budget, please send an email to [WesleyNexus@aol.com](mailto:WesleyNexus@aol.com)

God Bless,  
Rick Barr, Secretary, WesleyNexus  
[wesleynexus@aol.com](mailto:wesleynexus@aol.com)



