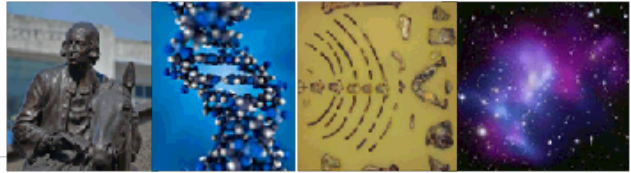


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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October 24, 2013

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

This month there are a number of events that I would like to highlight. Though a number of them are taking place in the Baltimore/Washington area there are also others scheduled in other locations. I plan to post these on the Events page of WesleyNexus this coming weekend. If there are events taking place around the country or even abroad that you would like posted, please let us know by sending an email to WesleyNexus@aol.com. Of course, as always, if you have any articles that we can share, let us know.

God Bless,

Rick Barr, WesleyNexus

Upcoming Events

October 25: William Phillips and James Miller to address The Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology and the Christian Faith

On October 25 at Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac, Maryland, The Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology and the Christian Faith will



hold its annual meeting with a program featuring **William Daniel Phillips**, PhD (Nobel Laureate, Physics, 1997) and **Rev. James Bradley Miller**, PhD.

In 1997, Dr. Phillips shared the Nobel Prize in Physics "for development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light" at The National Institute of Standards and Technology (then the National Bureau of Standards). He is now the head of the Laser Cooling and Trapping Group in the Quantum Measurement Division of NIST's Physical Measurement Laboratory and also a Fellow of the Joint Quantum Institute, a cooperative research organization of NIST and the University of Maryland. Bill is an active member of Fairhaven United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, MD where he is a member of Fairhaven's Gospel Choir.

Jim Miller is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) who has worked in science and religion for many years including, as the Senior Program Associate for the Program of Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is currently the co-chair of the Broader Social Impact Committee of the Human Origins Program at

the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

The program on the 25th will begin at 7:30. They will address the topic of "Science, Technology and the Christian Life". The program is open to all. More information on the program can be found [here](#).

October 29: Science, Faith and the New Atheism

Dr. John Haught of Georgetown University will present a program on Science, Faith and the New Atheism at Sanford University's Center for Science & Religion. The program will begin at 7:00 pm at the Brock Forum. Sanford University is located at 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama. For more information on this and upcoming programs, see their event calendar [here](#).



November 21, 2013: Panel Discussion with Tom Oord, Craig Boyd and Mark Mann

As we have mentioned in prior newsletters, WesleyNexus is sponsoring a free seminar and special presentation on the evening of Thursday November 21st in conjunction with the 200th Anniversary of Old Otterbein Church (in downtown Baltimore next to the Convention Center, 112 W. Conway Street),



The discussion topic will be "Is Evolution the Enemy of Faith?" Panelists will include WesleyNexus Advisory Board member Dr. Thomas Jay Oord, Professor of Theology at Northwestern Nazarene University, Craig A. Boyd, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St. Louis University, and Mark A. Mann, Associate Professor of Theology at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. The program will take place prior to the 2013 meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, scheduled to begin the following evening on November 22 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

The Thursday night program will begin with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. and run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The historic church is within one block walking distance from the convention hotels, and all AAR/SBL members are welcome, as well as members of the public. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Meanwhile, please share this information with anyone planning to attend the AAR/SBL meetings so that flights can be arranged to arrive at BWI on Nov 21st. Check www.wesnex.org for updates.

November 22 – 23: New Challenges in Science and Religion, Also in Baltimore

The International Society for Science and Religion is offering a brief conference on the theme of "New Challenges in Science and Religion." It will be held in Baltimore at the Baltimore Hilton on Friday afternoon and the Baltimore Convention Center on Friday evening and Saturday morning. It will conclude prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion on



Saturday. Speakers include many leading lights in the science and religion dialogue including Philip Clayton, Robert Russell, Jennifer Wiseman and Nancy Howell, just to name a few. Information on the program can be found [here](#).

October 27: Fairmilehead Parish Science and Religion Debate

Unless this newsletter finds you traveling in Scotland, it is unlikely that you will be able to attend the science and religion debate sponsored by Fairmilehead Parish Church in Edinburgh. None-the-less, I thought you might be interested in knowing that Fairmilehead is hosting a discussion with two scientists and two theologians. Speaking from a scientific perspective is



Prof Stuart Monro OBE, DUniv, FRSE, is the Scientific Director at Our Dynamic Earth, a charitable trust raising awareness and understanding of our planet through the Dynamic Earth exhibition and promoting education and life-long learning in Earth and Environmental Science. <http://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/home> He will be partnered with Prof Colin Graham FRSE, Senior Honorary Professorial Fellow, and Professor of Experimental Geochemistry at the University of Edinburgh. The theologians will be represented by Dr. Mark Harris MA PhD, Lecturer in Science and Religion at New College, the University of Edinburgh and Jeff Bagnall, Critical Roman Catholic Theologian and former lecturer for the Diocese of Edinburgh. The church website can be found [here](#).

November 12: Justin L. Barrett to speak at Azusa Pacific University

Justin L. Barrett, Ph.D., Thrive Professor of Developmental Science and director of The Thrive Center for Human Development in Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Psychology, will present "How to Train Your Dragon: The Promise of Cognitive Science of Religion" at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, CA on November 12. Dr. Barrett is an experimental psychologist who taught for five years in Oxford University's School of Anthropology. He is the author of numerous articles concerning cognitive, developmental, and evolutionary approaches to the study of religion. His authored books are *Why Would Anyone Believe in God?* (2004), *Cognitive Science, Religion, and Theology: From Human Minds to Divine Minds* (2011), and *Born Believers: The Science of Children's Religious Belief* (2012). He edited a four-volume collection called *Psychology of Religion* (2010).

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Los Angeles Pacific College Board Room, Turner Campus Center, 901 E. Alostia Ave., Azusa. You can see this announcement and others on the Center for Science Research website: <http://www.apu.edu/cris/lectures/>

Two Newly Discovered Websites (at least new to me!)

Common Ground - Science and the Baha'i Faith
Common Ground is a working group aimed at creating an active venue for discussion & communication, resource sharing, consultation, learning, study, & community-building for anyone interested in finding common ground in the areas of faith and reason, science and religion.



Contributors include members of the Baha'i Faith with backgrounds ranging from science to literature to philosophy. For the Baha'i "scientific knowledge is the highest attainment upon the human plane, for science is the discoverer of realities. It is of two kinds: material and spiritual. Material science is the investigation of natural phenomena; divine science is the discovery and realization of spiritual verities. The world of humanity must acquire both. A bird has two wings; it cannot fly with one. Material and spiritual science are the two wings of human uplift and attainment. Both are necessary..." — Abdu'l-Bahá, (from a talk given 23 May 1912, Cambridge, MA). Their website can be found [here](#).

Center for Science and Religion: Samford University

"The mission of the Center is to promote rational inquiry and to further understanding pertaining to key issues at the interface of science and religion. This is accomplished through a variety of educational and research activities. The Center is committed to the ideas that science and religion are not inherently incompatible and that insight into key science and religion issues has a rich history. The Center mission, however, is oriented around the belief that there is much to learn and much work to be done both with respect to exploring new avenues of understanding and for communicating current views to others. Outside its commitment to general Christian principles and an ongoing search for truth, the Center does not exist to promote any particular scientific theory or point of view."

<http://www.samford.edu/scienceandreligion/default.aspx>

Resurgence Publishing Gifts to WesleyNexus

WesleyNexus has been given a small quantity of books by Resurgence Publishing Corporation (RPC) (www.resurgencepublishing.com), a non-profit corporation in the State of Florida, founded in 2004.

The company's initial publications are the "Archive Series" focused on the life and works of Joseph Wesley Mathews provided, with family permission, to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. In 2009, RPC added a new "Legacy Series" of publications spearheaded by a reprinting of *Eternal Values in a World of Change*, by Bishop James K. Mathews, and the presentations, talks and workshops of the "Transforming the Legacy Symposium" at Wesley Theological Seminary, honoring the inauguration of the Joseph Wesley Mathews Archives at the Seminary and lifetime work of his brother Bishop James K. Mathews (see RPC Conferencing.) The two volume series resulting from the Symposium was published in late 2010. Books in this series now include *God Mask*, by Methodist theologian William Arthur Holmes, and the newest title, *A Theology of Surprise*, by Dr. John Epps, Director of LENS international in Malaysia. On the RPC website, all titles are highlighted, and any of these can be ordered at a deep discount through an email to WesleyNexus@aol.com as a way to support our work. Many thanks to RPC for this gift; all titles will be available for purchase at the November 21 seminar event at Old Otterbein Church in Baltimore.



