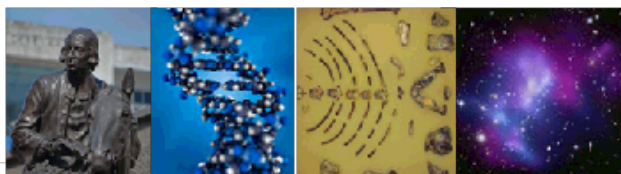


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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March 31, 2014

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

This month there are a number of events and articles that I want to draw to your attention. As we move through Lent towards Palm Sunday, through the passion of Holy Week to the celebration of Easter, I hope you take some time to reflect on what this holy season means in a world of Higgs bosons, polar vortexes and neurological correlates of consciousness. Now is the time to engage anew the meaning for faith in the postmodern world. As Albert Schweitzer proclaimed so profoundly at the end of The Quest for the Historical Jesus over one hundred years ago:

“He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same words: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.”

You may email us at WesleyNexus@aol.com. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

PS: We are dependent on you, our participants, for donations to cover expenses for our web podcast and subsequent dialogue events. WesleyNexus is a certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so please consider supporting this initiative with a contribution either through the PayPal DONATE [here](#) , or, by sending a check to:

WesleyNexus, Inc.
24500 Fossen Road
Damascus, MD 20872

We will use these funds to further our efforts to promote the dissemination of resource material promoting the dialogue between sound science and religion across the country.

God Bless,

Rick Barr, WesleyNexus

Upcoming Events

Jesus Seminar Program in DC

On April 4 and 5, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church is hosting a two day seminar Jesus on the Road (JSOR) with leadership by Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Th. D. and Robert J. Miller, Ph. D. "Jesus in the First and Twenty-First Centuries" reflects on what the rediscovery of the historical Jesus and his vision of the reign of God mean for the heirs of the Christian tradition and if this Jesus have has any relevance for people who claim no allegiance to Christianity. The presenters, member of the Jesus Seminar and the Westar Institute, will offer their insights and engage in discussion about the relationship of Christianity to contemporary politics, economics, and global power. A paid registration is required to participate. To register on-line, go to <http://www.westarinstitute.org/events/washington-dc/>

Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Th.D., Harvard University, is Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Drew University Theological School and Robert J. Miller, Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School, is Professor of Religious Studies at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. A Fellow of the Jesus Seminar since 1986, he was Scholar-in-Residence at Westar Institute in 2001.

Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Breakfast in Baltimore

WesleyNexus will host a “special meal” for informal discussion at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference May 29-31, 2014 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore. All clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference are welcome to attend to learn more about the opportunities for participating in the science and religion dialogue. It is IMPORTANT to register for this special meal – breakfast on Friday May 30 – at the time that you register for Annual Conference. All you have to do is purchase the meal plan, or buy this one particular meal, when you register. Your meal ticket for breakfast can then be used to attend this informal discussion with members of the WesleyNexus Board of Directors. Those clergy persons who might have a conflict might want to have their lay delegate register for this event to gain perspective and information on forthcoming programs sponsored by WesleyNexus. Our purpose, as is the case consistent with our mission, is to bring the best thinking in sound science and contemporary theology together in a way that informs all “thinking Christians.” Most especially we encourage young people to attend. Registration is available on-line at www.bwcumc.org.

Azuza Pacific Program: Science and Religion Dialog in Los Angeles

George L. Murphy, physicist and theologian, will present “The Science-Religion Dialog as if Jesus’ Life and Teachings Matter.” Murphy is a Lutheran pastor who has served in Lutheran and Episcopal congregations. He has a doctorate in physics from Johns Hopkins University, and before ordination conducted research and taught in colleges for 12 years. He has contributed extensively to science-religion discussions with



numerous publications and talks, and leadership of workshops for clergy and laypeople. The most recent of his six books is Models of Atonement: Speaking about Salvation in a Scientific World (2013). Murphy is the theology editor of Covalence, the online publication of the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology. The event will take place on April 8, 2014 at 6:30 pm at Azuza Pacific

University, 901 E. Alostia Ave., Azusa, CA 91702. Information can be found [here](#).

Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

Dr. Ard Louis will present a seminar “Contingency, Convergence and Hyper-astronomical Numbers in Biological Evolution” on April 29, 2014 in the Garden Room of the Library Building, St. Edmunds College, Cambridge. Dr. Louis is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and a Reader in Theoretical Physics at the University of Oxford, where he leads an interdisciplinary research group studying problems on the border between chemistry, physics and biology. Prior to Oxford he taught Theoretical Chemistry at Cambridge University where he was also director of studies in Natural Sciences at Hughes Hall. Dr. Louis is the International Secretary for Christians in Science and an associate of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion based at St. Edmunds College, University of Cambridge, and served on the Advisory board of the John Templeton Foundation. Though you may not be able to make a trip to England, prior programs by Dr. Louis can be found on the Faraday website at <http://www.faraday.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/Multimedia.php>.



Blue Like Jazz and Green Like Wesley

Blue Like Jazz was a bestselling book by Donald Miller a few years ago that made quite a splash among for those within the emerging church movement dissatisfied with the institutional church. In this article, Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell, Ph.D. chaplain at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania partners Miller’s book with her discovery of John Wesley and the Methodist movement. As she states, “Methodism was a renewal movement within the Church of England, organized into small groups of societies, classes, and bands. These groups sought to nurture the righteousness that Wesley found lacking in the larger church... ultimately what Wesley and other religious traditions offer is an alternative value system to the industrial consumer-driven model – one that is rooted in relationships with other people, the world around us, and God. “Be in charity with all,” Wesley writes, and “let justice, mercy, and truth govern.” His words and his life can inspire us to follow in the way of simplicity and generosity.” What is pointed at in Blue Like Jazz is answered in the Wesleyan approach to Christian life. You can find the article [here](http://www.jesusjazzbuddhism.org/blue-like-jazz-and-green-like-wesley-becoming-a-wesleyan-christian.html). <http://www.jesusjazzbuddhism.org/blue-like-jazz-and-green-like-wesley-becoming-a-wesleyan-christian.html>



A Lenten Meditation from Aaron Klinefelter

A Lenten Meditation: In the midst of the liminal, or What do a hawk, pigeon, and goose have to teach us? Contemplating the wild goose, a Celtic metaphor for the Holy Spirit [here](#).



Photo Essay of Nature by Tom Oord

As many of you know, Dr. Tom Oord is a wonderful photographer snapping the breathtaking and sublime of nature's glory in and around his home state of Idaho. In the link that follows, Dr. Oord provides images of his beloved land in winter. Take some time and enjoy [here](#).



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